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PRESS RELEASE

The inaugural ceremony of establishment of three additional Continuous Air Quality Monitoring Stations (at BIT Meshra Campus premises, Eco park premises and S.K.Memorial Hall Premises) with the financial support from the Government of Bihar for the better assessment of air quality in the city, held today at Eco-Park.

The city of Patna, has 4 stations including the existing one in Planetarium premises for the better assessment of air quality as on 16th December 2019.

In brief ceremony of the online inauguration of these stations, **Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Sri Sushil Kumar Modi,** in his address, briefly discussed the air quality parameters like PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ in common language so as to get comprehended by common masses. He further emphasized upon the role of meteorology in the elevated pollution levels during November to February. Elaborating the role of meteorology on the reduced air quality, he mentioned that, increased humidity and primarily lower wind speed during winter season lead to accumulation of pollutants in the lower layers of atmosphere leading to elevated concentration of pollutants resulting in poor air quality. He further described that meteorological parameters like wind speed, wind direction, solar radiation, ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure play an important role in affective air quality status in addition to the different sources generating these pollutants.

He further pointed out that from today onwards four stations (CAAQMS) are functional in the city. He also mentioned that two additional stations will be established at **Patna city & Danapur** which amount to total six functional stations across locations in the city for the better assessment and better representation of the ambient air Quality of the city. He further mentioned that one station will be established in all the districts of Bihar. Citing the reasons of deteriorating air quality and its check, the vehicles carrying solid waste and construction materials should be covered while transportation of these material which is adding up to the pollution levels. He further mentioned that all concerned officials/agencies have been directed to check the pollution level but the responsibility of vigilance of proper implementation of the initiatives by the govt., also lies on common people and media persons. He pointed out that Road Transport Department, govt. of Bihar is paving the footpath with tiles so as to reduce the suspension of dust from the moving vehicles. Further, Government of Bihar has put of complete ban of the movement of vehicles older than 15 years. Additionally he told that government of

Bihar has taken initiative to convert all three Wheelers to CNG by 2020. The Government of Bihar also provide the subsidy to them for the same.

Further in the Ceremony the guest of honour **Sri Deepak Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and climate Change** that data obtained from existing CAAMQMS is not good/healthy and prime reasons responsible is geographical location of the City. Elaborating the reasons responsible for the deteriorating air quality, he pointed out that the dust particle originating from Gangetic region/along side the banks of Ganga River and Regional Air Mass Transport along with solid waste burning are major drivers. He further emphasized upon the requirement of the participation of support of all communities for the abetment of pollution level. He further pointed out the benefits of plantations and its role in alleviating the pollution level. He also mentioned that continuous attempts are being undertaken to control the causative agents of poor air quality by the Government of Bihar.

Dr. A.K. Ghosh, Chairman, BSPCB in his welcome address mentioned the need of additional Air Quality Monitoring Stations considering the area and dense pollution of the City. Further he added that the location of existing monitoring station is heavily influence by higher traffic density and hence doesn't truly represents the Ambient Air Quality of entire city. He further point out the besides the four functional CAAMQS from today, in the next couple of days two additional stations will be established at school premises in Mangal Talab, Patna City and another one at DRM, Office campus, Danapur. In addition to these, initiative has been taken to establish one addtional station each in Gaya, Muzaffarpur and a new centre at Hajipur. He further mentioned that densely populated state like Bihar and to capture the true representation of ambient Air Quality status of entire State, at least 42 stations are required. The Honb'le Minister was requested to grant of funds for the establishments of these stations.

Concluding the Ceremony **Member Secretary, Sri Alok Kumar,IFS** delivered vote of thanks to all the guests. He further mentioned that in future one monitoring station each at Digha and Kankarbagh area will be established. He further mentioned that statistics suggest that external factors and regional air mass transport responsible for the deteriorating air quality of the Bihar

(Birendra Kumar) 16.12.2019
Public Relations Officer