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## 'Pollution check can save 2 billion life years'

Jayashree Nandi, TNN | Mar 29, 2014, 07:34AM IST

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NEW DELHI: India can save up to 2 billion life years if the places that exceed the national air quality standards (very polluted) were brought within standards, US based economist, Michael Greenstone has estimated. Greenstone who is 3M professor of Environmental Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said around 281 districts with a population of 628 million people live in highly polluted areas that don't meet the air quality standard.



Greenstone who is 3M professor of Environmental Economics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said around 281 districts with a population of 628 million people live in highly polluted areas that don't meet the air quality standard.

He was delivering a lecture on 'Shorter Lives Due to Air Pollution' at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) foundation day celebrations on Friday. Greenstone's estimates are based on data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and other studies which show that 52% of India's population is living in areas that are monitored by CPCB, where PM 2.5 (very fine respirable particles) level is higher than the safe standard. Over 80% of the population is living in areas where PM 10 (coarse particles) levels are higher than the safe standard.

Greenstone had conducted a similar "quasi-experimental" study on air pollution in China which assessed the life expectancy of a population North of Huai river where a lot of coal power plants were located due to a home heating policy and compared it with South of Huai river where no such policy existed. Life expectancy of those North of Huai river were found to be far lesser. A similar model of experiment is used in case of India to see if all the polluted places meet the PM 2.5 standard, what difference would it make on life-expectancy.

Greenstone found that each person living in these areas may gain 3.3 years of life in India. The mean PM 2.5 levels in these areas is 72 microgram per cubic metre when the national safe standard is only 40 microgram per cubic metre. "China is making big strides in dealing with air pollution. India too is very highly polluted and needs to make policy to deal with it. WHO has recently released data that 1 in 8 deaths were due to air pollution in 2012. The majority of the impact is borne by South East Asia," said Greenstone who was also the chief economist President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors .

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**Vibhas Jaiswal** (Unknown)  
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Increasing plantation of trees on roadside & decreasing cutting them down will help a lot.. First we should implement this, then only further decisions to be taken.



**Tarun Kumar Ganguly** (Calcutta, India)  
15 Followers  
Silver: 2.6K



To check pollution in our big cities and its adjoining areas is not a easy job. Further, it can not be checked through 'lectures'



**g.ananthapadmanabhan** (Bangalore)  
11 Followers  
Silver: 2.6K



It is not difficult to estimate pollution , predict the problems likely to occur to future generation. 100s of scientist and environmentalists were doing only this. WHAT IS A STRONG ACTION PLAN OR RESEARCH TO AVERT THIS. This area nobody attempts



**hemkant beedkar** (Pune) replies to **g.ananthapadmanabhan**  
57 Followers  
Gold: 14.4K



Adoption of new western technology which they have developed keeping this in mind for eastern countries.



**AZAD** (Location)  
38 Followers  
Gold: 7.0K



BUT WILL PEOPLE ADHERE TO THIS AS THEY BOAST IN SPREADING MORE POLLUTION EVERY WAY



**Rabin Chanda** (Kolkata)  
79 Followers  
Gold: 18.4K



EVERYONE SHOULD CRY FOR POLLUTION FREE WORLD.



**Prasad Rasal** (Pune)  
4 Followers  
Gold: 7.8K



Informative article.



**scannivas** (Madras)  
376 Followers  
Platinum: 38.8K



Check Pollution.



**Jasmine Florist** (India)  
168 Followers  
Silver: 4.2K



pollution is one of the biggest menace on the earth . to reduce this we all have to take precaution in our daily life lets all pledge today that we will try our level best to remove every kind of pollution



**Suhasyaa** (Navi Mumbai) replies to **Jasmine Florist**  
10 Followers  
Silver: 2.8K



please save planet earth!



**Gijo V George** (Unknown)  
17 Followers  
Silver: 2.8K



development must be a priority without damaging the environment, otherwise we will become smog affected like the chinese ciites and could pose a real threat to our children



**Vikram jeet** (Unknown)

Government rarely works for the environment. All the laws which are enacted are either due to the directions of the courts or international commitments which are binding on us. Otherwise, there won't be any effort on behalf of the Government for protection of Environment. Its only us the citizens of India through courts can secure a safe environment.



**makarand** (Thane)  
16 Followers  
Gold: 4.0K



Wonderful! Hope our frigid govts take necessary clue and take action. for serving life cycles



**pgangadharan** (Nileshwar)  
142 Followers  
Platinum: 11.1K



Air pollution is one among the major problems facing the country which effects the valuable life years of human beings in India. Purity of air, drinking water, food is the essential ingredients for human beings to lead a moderate healthy life but unfortunately it is miserably effected by pollution and over application of chemical manure with so much pesticides in agriculture. A useful article pertaining air is much worthy to read.



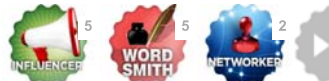
**RnG001** (India)  
28 Followers  
Gold: 6.2K



Agree but how?? pollution is increasing day by day...



**Jayeshkumar** (India) replies to RnG001  
52 Followers  
Gold: 21.5K



The Pollution per vehicle should decrease in proportion to the increase in the number of Vehicles; even to keep the Pollution level where it is. ..with help of technology advancements, just like the battery life of a mobile phone and advancement of electronics and telecommunications. To Reduce the Pollution, the Automobile Industries need to Adopt Path breaking methods to reducing the Power requirement or Wastage of Power, and thereby reduce or minimize the Pollution. ..per vehicle. Each vehicle that gets added. ..Big or Small.



**NAVNEET SINGAL** (GURGAON)  
76 Followers  
Gold: 6.1K



What we have to plan that what we will do of so many live years



**Mumbaikar** (Mumbai)  
38 Followers  
Gold: 8.6K



Entirely agree - but is anyone listening ....and that includes you and me? What are we doing to improve your environment and our lives?

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