

HOME

LATEST

TRENDING

MY READS

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019



Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani launched the pilot emissions trading project in Surat. ([twitter@vijayrupanibjp](https://twitter.com/vijayrupanibjp))

Gujarat unveils India's first emissions trading scheme to curb air pollution

2 min read . Updated: 06 Jun 2019, 11:22 PM IST

Neetu Chandra Sharma

Gujarat sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap. This market-based system is expected to slash air pollution at low cost for both govt and industry.

[HOME](#)[LATEST](#)[TRENDING](#)[MY READS](#)[RBI Monetary Policy](#)[NBFC crisis](#)[ICC World Cup 2019](#)[Company Results](#)[Jet Airways Crisis](#)[Election Results 2019](#)

NEW DELHI: The Gujarat government has started a novel emissions trading programme aimed to cut particulate air pollution and facilitate robust economic growth.

Chief minister Vijay Rupani launched the pilot programme on Wednesday in Surat, a densely populated industrial centre with a significant number of polluting textile and dye mills. The government claims this is the first such programme of its kind and will be a model for the rest of the country and the world.

Under the programme, the government sets a cap on emissions and allows industries to buy and sell permits to stay below the cap. As the first market-based approach to regulating pollution emissions in India, it is expected to slash air pollution at lower costs for both the government and industry, and provide best practices for replicating trading schemes to other emissions.

“With this programme, we are kicking off a new era of cleaner production, while lowering industry compliance costs and rewarding plants that cut pollution in low-cost ways,” said Rajiv Kumar Gupta, chairman of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB). “We believe using this market-based system will prove that rapid economic growth, ease of doing business, and breathing clean air can all be achieved at the same time.”

For effective and efficient pollution control, the emissions trading programme will be experimentally tested to understand its impact on emissions, industry costs and regulatory costs.

The GPCB is carrying out the emissions trading programme with the help of a team of researchers, including Michael Greenstone and Anant Sudarshan from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), Rohini Pande from the Evidence for Policy Design at Harvard Kennedy School, Nicholas Ryan from the Economic Growth Center at Yale University, and others from The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL).

The researchers will evaluate the programme’s benefits and costs, relative to status quo, using a randomized controlled trial.

HOME

LATEST

TRENDING

MY READS

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

The emissions trading programme builds on another early innovation by the GPCB —the use of continuous emissions monitoring systems to track industry emissions in real time.

About 350 industries around Surat have installed continuous emissions monitoring systems and now transmit real-time, high-quality emissions data. The new scheme takes advantage of this technology's modern, transparent approach to monitoring.

In 2015, the GPCB worked with the same research team to design, test, and, based on the test results, implement a new way of carrying out industrial pollution audits, fixing the incentive problem that occurs when third-party auditors responsible for testing plants on behalf of the regulator are also paid by these same plants.

Globally, the cap-and-trade system has been used to reduce other forms of emissions such as sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) in the US. But the Gujarat programme is the first in the world to regulate particulate air pollution, which is the single greatest threat to human health globally, the state government said.

The impact of particulate air pollution on life expectancy exceed that of devastating communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, behavioural killers like cigarette smoking, and even war, according to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI).

The AQLI, produced by EPIC, converts particulate air pollution into its impact on life expectancy, and finds that it cuts global life expectancy short by about two years.

Topics

Air Pollution | Emissions Trading Programme

HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

[RBI Monetary Policy](#)[NBFC crisis](#)[ICC World Cup 2019](#)[Company Results](#)[Jet Airways Crisis](#)[Election Results 2019](#)

India to develop own certification facility for air pollution monitoring

2 min read 30 Apr 2019

BS-VI emission norms to be implemented from next year, says Javadekar

1 min read 06 Jun 2019

Compassionate capitalism marks Azim Premji's 53-yr stint at Wipro

3 min read 01:34 AM IST

The 73-year-old IT czar has donated two-thirds of his wealth, worth \$21 billion, to charitable causes

Premji is credited with scaling up Wipro from a \$2 mn revenue firm to an \$11 bn conglomerate

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

RBI delivers 3rd rate cut in a row, shifts policy stance to 'accommodative'

5 min read 12:42 AM IST

The Sensex fell 1.38% as investors were unhappy that the RBI policy lacked relief measures for NBFCs

RBI is relaxing regulatory lending restrictions for commercial banks

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Why Sensex suffered its biggest fall of this year despite RBI rate cut

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Analysts say that the RBI rate cut was already factored in

Concerns over growth and challenges regarding liquidity continue to linger: Analysts

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HOME

LATEST

TRENDING

MY READS

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

RBI's faith in govt on fiscal prudence to be tested in upcoming Union budget

2 min read 06 Jun 2019

Though deficit has reduced over the years, the government's off-balance-sheet borrowings have ballooned

Economists say that there is very little navigation space available to the government to manage capital expenditure and the demands of the rural sector, which is in distress

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PM Modi reconstitutes Niti Aayog; Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh ex-officio members

1 min read 01:38 AM IST

Rajiv Kumar renamed as vice chairman

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar are also named as ex-officio members

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HOME

LATEST

TRENDING

MY READS

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

How airport slots are allocated to airlines

2 min read 06 Jun 2019

Slot constraints at busy airports such as those in Mumbai and Delhi leave little option for relatively new airlines to expand operations at these airports

Consequently, these airlines miss out on flying a large part of their capacity on profitable routes

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Investors lose ₹2.22 tn as markets record biggest single-day fall this year

1 min read 06 Jun 2019

The market capitalisation (m-cap) of BSE-listed companies tumbled ₹2,22,304.65 crore to ₹1,53,19,126.66 crore

All BSE sectoral indices ended in the red, with oil and gas, bankex, capital goods and finance falling up to 3.04%

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

ATM charge review to lower RTGS, NEFT fees for money transfer: Key RBI decisions

2 min read 06 Jun 2019

RBI has done away with the charges levied by the central bank for transactions processed in RTGS and NEFT systems

A committee will review ATM charges

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RBI rate cut: What should debt fund investors' next step be?

4 min read 06 Jun 2019

A reduction in interest rates will affect different types of debt funds differently depending upon their portfolio

There are funds such as that seek to earn returns both from an appreciation in the value of the instruments along with coupon interest income

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

Indices log biggest one-day loss of this year, Sensex crashes 558 points

5 min read 06 Jun 2019

Global oil prices have fallen below \$60, the lowest since January

The RBI cuts repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.75%

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Nirmala Sitharaman crowd sources ideas for FY20 budget

2 min read 06 Jun 2019

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said she was going through many of the ideas being shared in various media platforms

The move could enrich the ideas before the finance ministry and help review some of its plans in the light of fresh suggestions

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HOME

LATEST

TRENDING

MY READS

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

ICC cricket World Cup 2019: World Cup opener records highest ever reach on Star

1 min read 12:42 AM IST

The match between hosts England and South Africa recorded a reach of 114 million. England went on to beat South Africa in that match by 104 runs to make a perfect start to their World Cup campaign.

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'Low-cost carriers IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir to report record profits in 2019-20'

2 min read 01:23 AM IST

Airline consultancy firm CAPA says IndiGo alone could be on track to report a profit of \$400-500 million.

SpiceJet is strengthening and emerging as the clear number 2 airline in the market, says CAPA in a report.

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

[RBI Monetary Policy](#)[NBFC crisis](#)[ICC World Cup 2019](#)[Company Results](#)[Jet Airways Crisis](#)[Election Results 2019](#)

Heatwave brings respite for AC makers as sales surge

2 min read 06 Jun 2019

Sales were especially strong in parts of south and east India, according to air conditioner makers. If the sales momentum continues, 2019 could turn out to be one of the best years for cooling products after 2016, which saw harsh summers.

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RBI relaxes leverage ratio in a boost to bank lending

3 min read 01:00 AM IST

The leverage ratio has been reduced to 4% for domestic, systemically important banks, and 3.5% for other banks.

The relaxation could help some of the banks currently under PCA comply with the leverage framework.

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

'Bharat' records second highest opening day of all time

1 min read 06 Jun 2019

Box Office India said the Ali Abbas Zafar directed film has notched up the highest opening day numbers for a Salman Khan movie

Bharat notched up a screen count of 4,700 in India and 1,300 overseas

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Kerala gets a breather as 6 test negative for Nipah

2 min read 06 Jun 2019

Of the 6 hospitalized, five were in close contact with the patient who had tested positive

A total of 316 people who came in contact with the patient are being monitored on a daily basis.

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

India lost over ₹90,000 crore to trade misinvoicing, says GFI report

4 min read 06 Jun 2019

Of the total estimated revenue losses, approximately \$4 billion was due to export misinvoicing and approximately \$9 billion due to import misinvoicing

Almost two-thirds of Indian imports that appear to be most at risk for some degree of potential revenues losses are imports from China

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Film review: 'X-Men: Dark Phoenix' is a forgettable spin-off

1 min read 06 Jun 2019

The film is built around Jean Grey acquiring extraordinary powers

Sophie Turner, James McAvoy, Jennifer Lawrence and Michael Fassbender reprise their roles

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HOME**LATEST****TRENDING****MY READS**

RBI Monetary Policy

NBFC crisis

ICC World Cup 2019

Company Results

Jet Airways Crisis

Election Results 2019

NEET 2019: Some interesting statistics about those who cleared the exam

1 min read 06 Jun 2019

Delhi had the highest percentage of candidates clearing the exam at 74.92

Two candidates scored 700 marks out of 720 but secured different ranks

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