**PRESS RELEASE**

# CSTEP studies identify solutions to reduce air pollution in Bengaluru

## For Immediate Release

**Bengaluru, 29 April 2022**

While Bengaluru's deteriorating air quality is a cause for concern, interventions targeted at polluting sources can help reduce pollution levels, according to the studies released by the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP). The studies—'Emission Inventory and Pollution Reduction Strategies for Bengaluru' and 'Identification of Polluting Sources for Bengaluru'— identified polluting sources/activities or hotspots, which has been a significant challenge for policymakers working in the air pollution sector.

CSTEP conducted a data dissemination and capacity building event for over 50 Karnataka Government officials on 29 April 2022 at Shangri-La, Bengaluru, to ensure the implementation of solutions from the studies and empower government officials to make informed decisions.

At the workshop, Dr Shanth A. Thimmaiah, Chairman, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, said that the board would use CSTEP's studies to evaluate their action plans.

He reflected on the need for micro action plans that will help pollution control boards to take effective, result-oriented action towards improving air quality.

'The event is an opportunity to evaluate our work. CSTEP's reports will be used as a base for studying and making clean air action plans for three other non-attainment cities through a Plan-Do-Check-Act approach', he said.

Shri Vijay Mohan Raj, IFS, Principal Secretary, Ecology and Environment Department, Government of Karnataka, highlighted the need for *air guilt*—the guilt that comes from knowing that we are contributing to air pollution (and how)—to be felt by all and drive our actions. To do this, data need to be presented in simple formats that could be understood by even children. He hoped that the reports would bring about last-mile changes to improve air quality.

CSTEP's study findings revealed that Bengaluru can see possible concentration reductions of ~26.5%, ~13.5%, and ~9.6%, respectively, for high-, medium-, and low-emission reduction scenarios (measures clubbed with varying levels of

compliance) for both $PM_{10}$ and $PM_{2.5}$ by 2024. Key measures considered under the scenarios were improvement in public transportation infrastructure, diesel particulate filter installation in trucks, and a strict blanket ban on open waste burning.

Dr Pratima Singh, Research Scientist at CSTEP who led the study, observed that 'Considering Bengaluru's status as a non-attainment city, conducting a scientific assessment through source apportionment and emission inventory was crucial towards preparing efficient strategies. Our studies estimated transportation to be the major contributor (around 40–51%), followed by road dust resuspension (17–51%). Other polluting sectors include construction dust, domestic fuel, and diesel generators'.

CSTEP—as an Institute of Repute under the National Clean Air Programme—is working with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to help implement the recommendations.

By training state government officials to use scientific methods to assess air quality through this event, CSTEP hopes to enhance the quality and effectiveness of policy decisions.

The study reports are available at https://cstep.in/publications.php

For more details and interviews with researchers, please write to us at cpe@cstep.in

**About CSTEP**

Headquartered in Bengaluru, the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is one of India's leading think tanks with a mission to enrich policymaking with innovative approaches using science and technology for a sustainable, secure, and inclusive society. CSTEP's areas of focus are Climate, Environment and Sustainability; Energy and Power; AI and Digital Platforms; and Strategic Studies.