

Virtual Workshop on Urban Air Quality Management

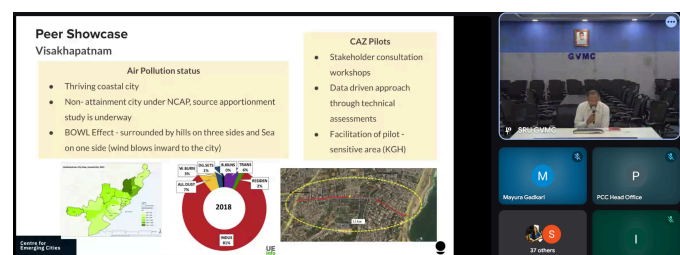
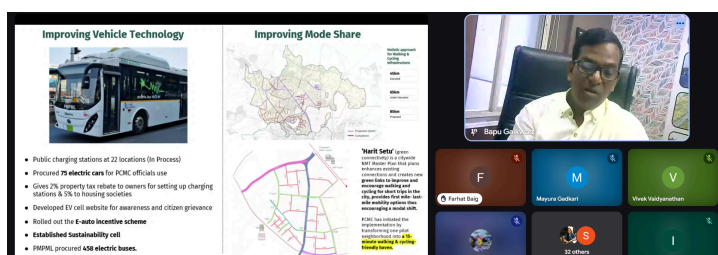
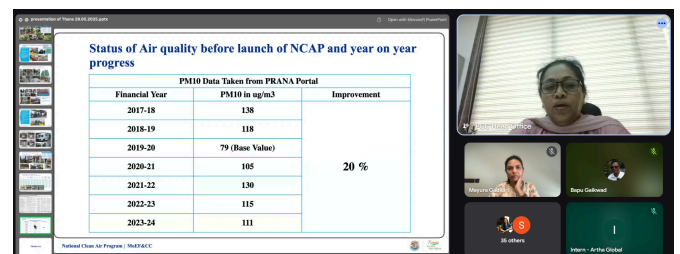
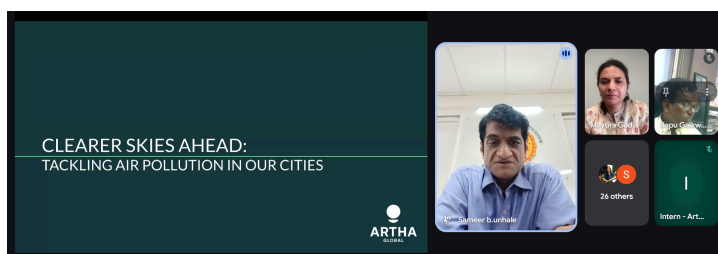
In collaboration with the Directorate of Municipal Administration, Government of Maharashtra

May 29 | 3.00-5.00 PM

Artha Global, in collaboration with the Directorate of Municipal Administration, Government of Maharashtra, hosted a high-impact virtual workshop on urban air quality management, bringing together more than **35 cities from across Maharashtra**. The session enabled peer learning on practical, city-led solutions to tackle air pollution—a growing urban challenge affecting both public health and liveability.

Cities that participated in the workshop included **Dhule, Latur, Mumbai, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, Solapur, Thane, Vasai-Virar, Chandrapur, Ahilyanagar, Nanded and Nandurbar**, to name a few. Cities such as Thane and Pimpri Chinchwad from Maharashtra and **Vishakhapatnam and Vijayawada from Andhra Pradesh** presented innovative approaches to mitigate emissions. Thane showcased its extensive **air quality monitoring infrastructure and enforcement mechanisms, including a low-emission transport strategy with EV adoption and pedestrian-first initiatives**. Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada shared their work on **Clean Air Zones through stakeholder consultations, public transport upgrades, and urban infrastructure improvements**. Pimpri Chinchwad shared significant achievements under the National Clean Air Programme, including **mechanised road washing, fogging, and emission control**.

The workshop facilitated an exchange of ideas on **air quality sensors, road washing techniques, and stakeholder engagement strategies**. Cities expressed interest in continuing such knowledge-sharing platforms and requested documentation of best practices. Feedback from the participants indicated that **most cities are interested in future workshops focused on maintaining clean streets and neighbourhoods, understanding municipal finance, and engaging with government officials, elected representatives, and citizens**. There was strong support for joining a Learning Network to learn from peers about urban management.



Virtual Workshop on Urban Air Quality Management

In collaboration with the Commissioner and Directorate of Municipal Administration, Government of Andhra Pradesh

Aug 5 | 11.30 - 1.00 PM

Artha Global, in collaboration with the Commissioner and Directorate of Municipal Administration (CDMA), Government of Andhra Pradesh, convened a high-impact virtual workshop on urban air quality management, bringing together nearly 40 participants from **13 non-attainment cities** across the state. The workshop created a platform for **peer-to-peer learning on city-led, practical solutions** to address air pollution—an increasingly urgent challenge impacting public health, liveability, and urban resilience.

Participating cities included **Eluru, Nellore, Ongole, Vijayawada, Guntur, Kadapa, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Kurnool, Anantapur, and Chittoor**. Two champion cities, **Visakhapatnam** and **Bhubaneswar**, shared implementation experiences under the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**:

- **Visakhapatnam** showcased its **Clean Air Zones** initiative aimed at targeted emission reduction across key city areas.
- **Bhubaneswar** presented its **Low Emission Zone**, developed around the **Ekamra Kshetra Heritage Precinct**, focused on reducing traffic-related emissions in a sensitive urban core.

The session **moved beyond a conventional training format** to become a **collaborative, solutions-oriented exchange**, where city officials engaged in reflective dialogue, exchanged field-tested practices, and co-developed ideas tailored to their local realities. **Participant feedback** indicated a strong interest in continuing this mode of engagement. Cities expressed a clear need for future sessions on improving **urban liveability, clean neighbourhoods**, and **climate adaptation strategies**. There was also widespread support for the creation of a **dedicated Learning Network**—enabling ongoing, peer-driven knowledge sharing on critical urban management themes.

Understanding the Problem
India's Air Quality Crisis: Key pollutants

LEAD POLLUTANTS DISSECTED
The sources of PM10 and PM2.5 vary substantially

Pollutant	Source	Value
PM10	Dust & Construction	45
PM10	Waste Burning	17
PM10	Transport	14
PM10	Biogas Generator	8
PM10	Domestic Cooking	17
PM2.5	2 wheeler (Urban)	27.5
PM2.5	4 wheeler (Urban)	4.3
PM2.5	3 wheeler (Urban)	14.6
PM2.5	Bus (Urban)	13.0
PM2.5	Trucks (Urban)	11.3
PM2.5	Construction	10.9

WHAT'S IN YOUR AIR

- PM2.5**: Toxic, most unhealthy, high levels in winter
- PM10**: Another lead pollutant on winter days
- OZONE**: Forms when oxides of nitrogen (NOx) react with volatile organic compounds in bright sunlight. Lead pollutant in summers

Peer Showcase
Stories from Andhra Pradesh

Clean Air Zones (CAZs) are areas where polluting vehicles, such as BS-III/IV and diesel vehicles, are restricted to reduce emissions and promote cleaner transport. Designed to evolve into Zero Emission Zones, they are planned and enforced through spatial strategies. In Visakhapatnam & Vijayawada, CAZs aim to improve air quality through transport focused pilots developed with local authorities.

Key Stakeholders

- APPCB
- City Authorities
- Transport Dept
- City Traffic Police
- Civil Societies
- Resident communities of CAZs.

Cleaner air AHEAD

Process

- PHASE 1: Capacity Building & Institutional Engagement
- PHASE 2: Identification of Pilot areas & propose control measures
- PHASE 3: Implementation of control measures

National Clean Air Programme

2019 Base year | 130 Non-Attainment Cities | 40% Target air pollution reduction by 2026

India's NCAP cities (130)

ODISHA

Seven non-attainment Cities in Odisha: Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kalinga Nagar, Balasore, Talcher, Angul, Rourkela.

Virtual Workshop on Making Housing Affordable

In collaboration with the Directorate of Municipal Administration, Government of Maharashtra

Sep 25 | 3.30 - 5.30 PM

Artha Global, in partnership with the **Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA), Government of Maharashtra**, convened a virtual workshop on affordable housing, bringing together city representatives from across the state. The session provided a platform for peer-to-peer learning on strategies to expand housing access, drawing lessons from both Maharashtra and other states.

Prof. Abhay Pethe, an economist with deep expertise in housing and urban policy, opened the session by outlining the structural factors behind India's housing shortage. He stressed that while housing is a private good, it is also a social and economic necessity requiring government support. Key drivers of unaffordability include **high land prices, restrictive building codes, limited rental housing, and complex approvals**. He discussed reforms such as **transit-oriented development, flexible FSI norms, stronger governance, and revitalising rental markets** to make housing more inclusive.

Peer showcase sessions followed:

- The city of **Kolhapur, with support from Shelter Associates**, shared its citywide slum rehabilitation program implemented under the 'Beneficiary-Led Construction' (BLC) vertical of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Using **GIS mapping, vulnerability indexing, and household-level data**, the city ensured that **PMAY-supported housing projects reached eligible families**. The Bondre Nagar project, with its **multistakeholder approach and integrated community space**, was highlighted as an **innovative model**.
- The city of **Nanded** presented its experience under the BLC vertical of PMAY, covering **over 7,000 houses** and ongoing efforts under PMAY 2.0.
- From **Odisha**, the state-level leader for the **award-winning Jaga Mission** presented a **pioneering initiative for in-situ slum upgrading**. This program has **provided land rights and infrastructure to over 400,000 households through strong community engagement and women-led Slum Dwellers' Associations**. The entire program was designed and implemented collaboratively.

Beyond the expert talk and the case presentations, **the workshop fostered candid dialogue on funding and implementation challenges, shared practical resources, and sparked strong interest in using the Urban Managers' Learning Network to advance affordable housing solutions across cities.**

