



## NATIONAL MEDIA BRIEFING

# CONTROLLING AIR POLLUTION – WHAT NEXT? THE IMPERATIVE OF PLANNING REGIONALLY

Date: **Friday, December 20, 2019**

Venue: **Casuarina Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi**

## AGENDA

### THE FOCUS

Air pollution is a national health emergency. 1.2 million people die prematurely annually due to air pollution-related diseases in India. Under the National Clean Air Action Programme (NCAP), 129 cities have been designated as non-attainment cities that are implementing clean air action plans to meet the clean air target of 20-30 per cent reduction. But it is clear from the emerging science and satellite views that while local action has to gather momentum to reduce local toxic exposure and health risk in cities, regional-scale action is needed because air pollution moves across boundaries.

But initiating action locally and regionally is not yet well understood by the concerned agencies and governments. Nor is there a coherent legal framework for integrated regional plan, action and compliance. India now needs such a new generation policy framework. Towards that goal, cities and regions need to draw lessons from ongoing action – especially in Delhi and the National Capital Region, the first-ever regional block that is experimenting with an integrated plan. This has thrown up important lessons with regard to multi-sector action – what has happened so far and what more needs to be done.

This conversation in this Media Briefing will inform about the science of regional pollution and forecasting, imperatives of local and regional pollution and what it takes to move action

### THE DAY'S PROGRAMME .....

**Registration and Tea:** 9:30-10:00 AM

**Setting the Future Agenda:** 10.00-11.00 AM

- **Sunita Narain**, *director general*, Centre for Science and Environment

**Clearing the Air – From Cities to Region:** 11.00 AM-12.00 PM

- **Anumita Roychowdhury**, *executive director-research and advocacy and head of sustainable urbanisation, mobility and air pollution programmes*, Centre for Science and Environment

**How the Science of Prediction and Forecasting Shapes Action:** 12.00-1.00 PM

- **Gufran Beig**, *scientist-G and programme director*, SAFAR, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune

**OPEN SESSION: How to Strengthen Reporting on Air Pollution – What are the Gaps and What We can do**

**Together:** 1.00-2.00 PM

- **Anchor:** Sunita Narain

**Lunch:** 2.00-3.00 PM