

## **Brainstorming Workshop held to improve Nagpur's air quality**

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI), Nagpur organised a capacity building workshop on implementation of Nagpur's air action plan on 13 February 2023. Shri Radhakrishnan B., Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) and Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI were prominently present on this occasion. The representatives from Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), Wadi Municipal Council, RTO, NHAI and Nagpur Metro took part in the workshop.

In the inaugural session of the workshop Shri Radhakrishnan emphasized on the need to strengthen the science-policy-society interface for air quality management of the city. CSIR-NEERI may help Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the identification of the underlying issues through the well-defined programme modules, such as – air quality monitoring, emission inventory, modelling, etc., he added. He urged the ULBs to develop an action-oriented capacity development plan for Nagpur city in association with CSIR-NEERI. Dr. Vaidya said that it is imperative to mobilize science, data, and information to mitigate air pollution. The knowledge gained in this workshop will benefit participating organizations and society, he added.

Dr. Padma Rao, Chief Scientist and Head, Environmental Audit and Policy Implementation Division, CSIR-NEERI briefed about the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) as a national-level strategy for reducing the levels of air pollution at both the regional and urban scales. 20-30% reduction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> concentration has been targeted by 2024, she added. Mrs. Sangita Goel, Principal Scientist, Environmental Audit and Policy Implementation Division, CSIR-NEERI gave a detailed presentation on the air quality monitoring work carried out at 16 locations in Nagpur city. She informed that the locations such as Pardi Naka Square, Kalamna, Manewada need air pollution mitigation measures. Dr. Shweta Banerjee, Executive Engineer, NMC mentioned that NMC will take appropriate measures to mitigate air pollution at such locations of Nagpur. Shri Sandeep Lokhande, Public Health Engineer, NMC along with Technical Advisors Shri Ruprao Raut and Shri Chandrakant Gabhane also shared their views in the workshop. Shri Naresh Wadetwar, General Manager, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) apprised the current status of the ongoing flyover work near Pardi Naka square. Shri P. Nitey, Additional General Manager, MAHA-METRO informed that the construction work of Nagpur Metro near Pardi Naka square is completed. Mr. D. Dakhane, Inspector, Regional Transport Office assured to carry out extensive vehicle checking to prevent air pollution in the city. Dr. Nitin Labhsetwar, Chief Scientist and Head and Dr. Piyush Kokate, Senior Scientist from Energy and Resource Management Division, CSIR-NEERI gave an overview and demonstration of the drone-based air quality monitoring device "NEERI-KSHAN".



Dr. Atul Vaidya, Director, CSIR-NEERI welcoming Shri Radhakrishnan B., Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)



The capacity building workshop on implementation of Nagpur's air action plan in progress





Dr. Piyush Kokate, Senior Scientist, Energy and Resource Management Division, CSIR-NEERI giving a demonstration of the drone-based air quality monitoring device "NEERI-KSHAN" to Shri Shri Radhakrishnan B., Commissioner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC)