Key advantages:

• Industries will have information on their pollution emissions and can increase adoption of technology to decrease pollution.

• MPCB already collects high quality data on industrial air pollution emissions on a regular basis. Thus, the program has practically no cost with high returns.

• Industrial report cards will be regularly updated to improve tracking air pollution emissions over time. This will be based on MPCB's ongoing data collection activities.

• The star rating index is an easy and accessible way to inform residents of Maharashtra about the industry emissions in their state.

#mhstarrating

To view the ratings and know more about the program visit:

www.mpcb.gov.in/star_rating/home.html

"MPCB's program is path-breaking in providing the public with critical information and rigorously testing its impact on pollution emissions. We feel fortunate to be of service by helping MPCB to measure the benefits for the people of Maharashtra."

Professor Michael Greenstone
Director of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago.

"The star rating program is a very good practice which will show performance of air pollution emission by industries. This is an excellent initiative taken by MPCB."

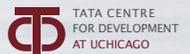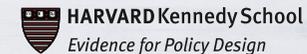— Industry Representative from Maharashtra

In collaboration with:

IGC
International Growth Centre

Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TATA TRUSTS

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
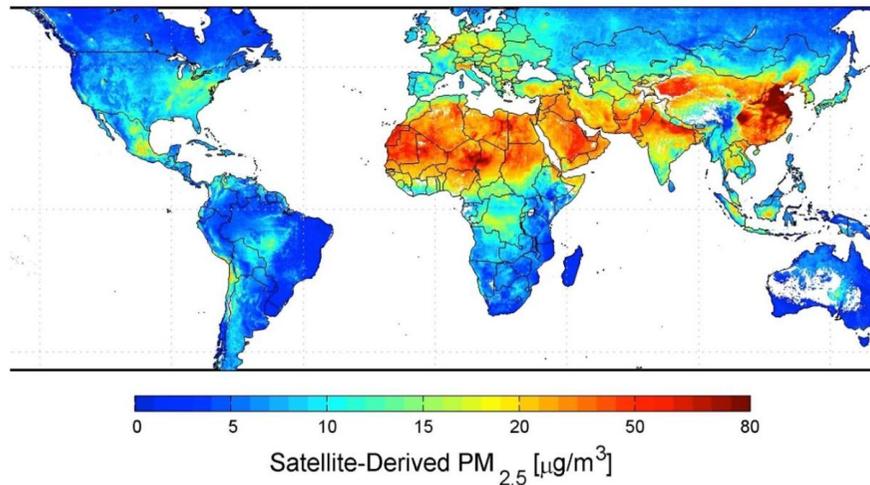महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ

STAR RATING PROGRAM

MAKING OUR AIR CLEANER

A STAR RATING PROGRAM IS AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO REDUCING AIR POLLUTION FROM STATIONARY SOURCES IN MAHARASHTRA.

J-PAL
ABDUL LATIF JAMEEL POVERTY ACTION LAB

EPIC INDIA
ENERGY POLICY INSTITUTE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

HARVARD Kennedy School
Evidence for Policy Design

TATA CENTRE
FOR DEVELOPMENT
AT UCHICAGO

Understanding the Pollution Challenge

Fine particulate matter (PM) pollution is widely believed to be the deadliest form of air pollution. Such pollution often comes from combustion of diesel, petrol, coal, lignite, heavy oil and biomass. Other industrial activities such as building, mining, smelting, and the manufacture of cement, ceramic and bricks can also give rise to particular matter. PM 10 and PM 2.5 – referring to the size of the particles – are small enough to penetrate our windpipe and lungs. Their harmful effects are well documented: Respiratory and cardiovascular conditions such as aggravation of asthma, bronchitis and high blood pressure; and higher rates of death from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases such as cardiac arrest, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Heat map showing distribution of particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentration around the world. Source: Yale EPI (2012) derived from NASA MODIS data products

Confronting the Challenge

Improving our environment requires concerted action by public authorities, industry and individuals at national, regional and even international levels. The first step is regular monitoring of particulate matter and other air pollutants. To tackle the growing danger of air pollution and regularly monitor these emissions, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has released a first-of-its-kind five-star rating system in India.

Star Rating Program:
An Effective and Affordable Tool for Air Pollution Abatement

The Maharashtra Star Rating Program is the first initiative in India that leverages data from approximately 20,000 industrial stack samples over multiple years. The program has the potential to increase pollution abatement by leveraging information already collected by regulators and providing it to both industry and the public. Under the new scheme, industrial facilities are rated from one to five stars based on their emissions. Industries, regulators and the public can then log onto the website to access the report cards for plants in their area. Industries selected belong to following eight sectors: cement, chemicals, metal works, paper, pharmaceuticals, power, textiles, and sugar and distilleries.

Similar program have been launched in the United States, Canada, China, Ghana, Philippines and Ukraine. But, the Maharashtra program will be the first to measure the impact on particulate matter emissions with the help of researchers from The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (JPAL), the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), Evidence for Policy Design (EPoD) at Harvard University, and the Tata Centre for Development.

> "We are working on finding new solutions to confronting the issue of air pollution. People must be aware of the air quality in their area and must have easy access to air pollution data collected by state regulators. This exemplary effort by MPCB will engage civil society."
>
> Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister of Maharashtra

> "The star rating program is an easy way to inform the people of Maharashtra about the industry emissions in their state. Not only is it easy to interpret, it communicates information in a way that holds industries and regulators accountable through transparency."
>
> Shri Ramdas Kadam, Cabinet Minister — Environment, Maharashtra.

> "This program will encourage better environmental performance among all industries. We look forward to the spirited innovation and collaboration among industries that will result from this program."
>
> Shri Pravin Ramchandra Pote-Patil, Minister of State for Industries and Mining, Environment, Public Works