CSIR – NISTADS "Mission Delhi- Smart City" Initiative

In cities like Delhi, urban population growth and rapid urbanization is leading to multiple problems: scarcity of resources, air pollution, human health concerns, traffic congestions, etc. The key challenges in these urban mega clusters are to develop an integrative framework to create a sustainable and livable city, 'SMART CITY'.

In principle, ICT enabled technologies can support smart city objectives. However, the viability of various approaches have to be integrated with socio- economic analysis to create the needed connect between proposed approaches and people at large. CSIR – NISTADS argues for non-disruptive and sustainable options to integrate the government's approach to develop smart cities. It is proposed to undertake a detailed evidence bases study to create a policy plan for a successful implementation of a 'smart city' objective taking Delhi as a case study.

OBJECTIVES

- To create a matrix for 'Smart Delhi' based on current and projected demands and practices.
- Develop a robust database for various parameters of a smart city.
- Create a policy plan for a successful implementation of a smart city.

Under this initiative, to begin with CSIR-NISTADS has taken an initiative by developing a policy paper titled "Improved Air Quality through Non-disruptive Work Scheduling (**CSIR-NISTADS Policy Paper: PP/ 01/2015 www.nistads.res.in)**.

This policy paper focuses on mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region by providing a solution which is non-disruptive, sustainable and implementable called as **Virtual Attendance at Work and School (VAWS**). This proposal can be implemented non-disruptively through IT-enabled work/school scheduling especially in large metros where there is good infrastructure and access. VAWS proposes a 2 +1+2 working week in which the third day (Wednesday) will be a day of Virtual Attendance at Work and School (VAWS), with two regular working days before and after. A mechanism of internal monitoring has also been worked out.
The major source of air pollution in a metropolis like Delhi is vehicular traffic. While the atmospheric circulation and precipitation act as natural and regular sinks, through advection and deposition, they have limits due to various dynamical and seasonal effects. Quite expectedly, the

pollution peaks as the week progresses due to accumulation. Thus, a break or reduction in traffic, even for a day, would enable the natural circulation to clear the air. In addition to reducing air pollution, VAWS will have several other attending benefits like energy saving at work/school, reduction of travel related stress, higher efficiency and improved quality life.

A Press meet in the above context was also organized on December 23, 2015 at CSIR-NISTADS, New Delhi. This event received wide coverage and telecasted by various leading news channels. A press note was released by CSIR-NISTADS during this event, which drew attention by media at large. (Press release and media coverage available on www.nistads.res.in)