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92% of world population without clean air — Scientist

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A file picture of a young rag picker atop a pile of garbage at the municipal waste dumping site in Dimapur. (EM Images)

Bhubaneswar, June 6 (PTI): A whopping 92% of world’s population are unable to breathe clean air because of air pollution which has been identified as the cause of 7 million deaths every year across the globe, eminent environmental scientist Prof Uma Charan Mohanty said.

“Pollution is on the rise due to anthropogenic reasons but at the same time mankind needs energy and development, said to be the contributory factors for pollution. Air pollution is reducing our lifespan by 2 to 3 years,” said Prof Mohanty, Emeritus Professor at IIT, Bhubaneswar.

Around 1.2 million people died in India every year due to air pollution which was identified as the third biggest cause of death in the country, Prof Mohanty said while addressing a programme organised on the occasion of World Environment Day here on Wednesday.

‘Air Pollution’ happens to be the theme for this year’s World Environment Day.

Meanwhile, the air quality in as many as 102 cities in India was extremely poor. Six of these urban centres — Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Rourkela, Angul and Talcher, were located in Odisha.

Vehicular traffic and industry contributed to 40% and 25% of air pollution respectively while it was also responsible for climate change and extreme weather events, he said.