

92 pc of world population without clean air: Scientist

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Bhubaneswar, June 6: A whopping 92 per cent of world's population are unable to breathe clean air because of air pollution which has been identified as the reason for seven 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 two to three years," said 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, Mohanty said while addressing a programme organised on the occasion of World Environment Day here 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 cen-

Seminar on World Environment Day

On the occasion of World Environment day Confederation of Indian Industry -CII and Indian Green Building Council -IGBC along with Odisha Environment Society and Odisha Sparsh Foundation organised a seminar on the theme of "Beat Air Pollution". Many eminent personalities of Odisha Inc gathered under one roof as four societies - CII IGBC, Sparsh Foundation, Odisha Environment Society, The Climate Realty Project & JK Papers Ltd - joined hands to celebrate World Environment Day by organising a seminar on Climate Change with a Theme on Beat Air Pollution. Gracing the occasion, Jugal Kishore Mohapatra, former Chief Secretary of Odisha emphasised on enhancement of public transport system and expansion of renewable energy sources to meet the energy requirements.

tres - Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Balasore, Rourkela, Angul and Talcher, were located in Odisha.

Vehicular traffic and industry contributed to 40 per cent and 25 per cent of air pollution respectively while it was also responsible for climate change and extreme weather events, he said. The major anthropogenic reasons for air pollution were growth in vehicular emission, energy generation and industrial growth.

Mohanty said air pollution was also adversely contributing to climate change and triggering extreme weather events like cyclones of extreme intensity and heatwaves while rain-

fall was getting erratic.

"Adaptation to climate change is important and our dependence should shift towards clean energy sources like solar, wind and hydro power," he said adding "if we can tap 30 per cent of available solar energy, we will not require any other source." Ajit Padhi, Director (Operations), NASSCOM, who was the chief guest on the occasion, said Bhutan had embarked on a campaign to make the Himalayan kingdom pollution free.

"Bhutan's Carbon Zero campaign is praiseworthy," he said while emphasising on methods to reduce energy consumption.