

## 2nd WHO Conference on Air Pollution and Health

**Prelims** – *General issues on Environmental ecology, Climate Change; Current Events of International Importance.*

### Why in News?

Recently, the second World Health Organisation (WHO) conference on air pollution and health was concluded.

- **Conference location** - Colombian city of Cartagena
- **Organizers** - Jointly organized by WHO and the Government of Colombia
- **Participants** - Over 700 participants including government representatives, U.N. agencies, civil society, scientists, and health societies.
- **Goal** - A shared goal to **reduce the health impacts by 50% by 2040** was agreed upon to save millions of lives every year.
- **Impact of Air Pollution** - Air pollution claims more victims than violence itself and poisoning our air costs lives in silence.
- **Participant's commitments** - More than 50 countries, cities and organisations announced major commitments to tackle air pollution and safeguard health.
- **India's commitment** - India has committed to supporting the health sector with actions in alignment with the National Clean Air Programme to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 2040.
- It also committed to strengthen air pollution and noncommunicable disease surveillance, promote cleaner cooking energy, particularly for vulnerable populations, and support clinicians in protecting at-risk patients.

*National Clean Air Programme aims at 40% reduction in particulate matter by 2026.*

*The acceptable annual standard for PM<sub>2.5</sub> is 40 micrograms per cubic metre and PM<sub>10</sub> is 60 microgram per cubic metre.*

- **Spain's carbon-neutral health-care system** - Spain assured that they are "committed to achieve" a carbon-neutral health-care system by 2050 through emission reduction, multi-sectoral collaboration and promoting innovation.
- **Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (FICAP)** - The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland reaffirmed its commitment to tackling air pollution by chairing the Forum and publishing an Air Quality Strategy.

*The purpose of the Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (FICAP)*

*is to promote international collaboration towards preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally.*

*It is co-lead by Sweden and the United Kingdom and open to participation from all regions, countries, NGOs and IGOs, researchers and industry associations.*

- **C40 cities commitment** - On behalf of the co-chairs of C40 cities, representing almost 100 of the world's biggest cities, the Deputy Mayor of London assured supporting WHO's 2040 target and roadmap.

*C40 is a global network of mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis. (Indian Cities - Chennai, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Delhi)*

- **Clean Air Fund (CAF)** - It committed to continuing to support WHO in demonstrating the benefits of life-saving clean air actions.
- It also committed to allocate an additional US\$ 90 million over the next two years for climate and health efforts.

*The Clean Air Fund is a philanthropic initiative with a mission to tackle air pollution around the world and brings together funders, researchers, policy makers and campaigners to find and scale solutions that will provide clean air for all.*

## Reference

[The Hindu | WHO conference](#)