

Creation of energy scenario in the future to improve air quality in East and South Asia

Executive summary

Phenomenal growth in India has positively impacted the quality of lives, however on the other hand has affected the environmental quality in many ways. Air pollution caused due to emissions from vehicles, industries, power plants, mining activities, bio-mass burning in rural households has serious implications not only on the human health but also on the ecological fronts. With local air pollution becoming a major issue in the Indian cities and industrial zones, CO₂ emissions have also been on rise contributing to the global pool of greenhouse gases.

Significant efforts have been made in the direction of controlling air pollution and some achievement can be seen in reduction of SO₂ and CO concentrations. However, particulate matter has consistently been a major pollutant of concern for the country. Figure 1.1 shows that in 2009, while SO₂ levels are well below the prescribed annual average standard in all the cities, NO_x concentrations are violating or at the verge of violation in many cities. RSPM (respirable suspended particulate matter) has been above the standards in the most of the cities is the pollutant of immediate concern for the country.

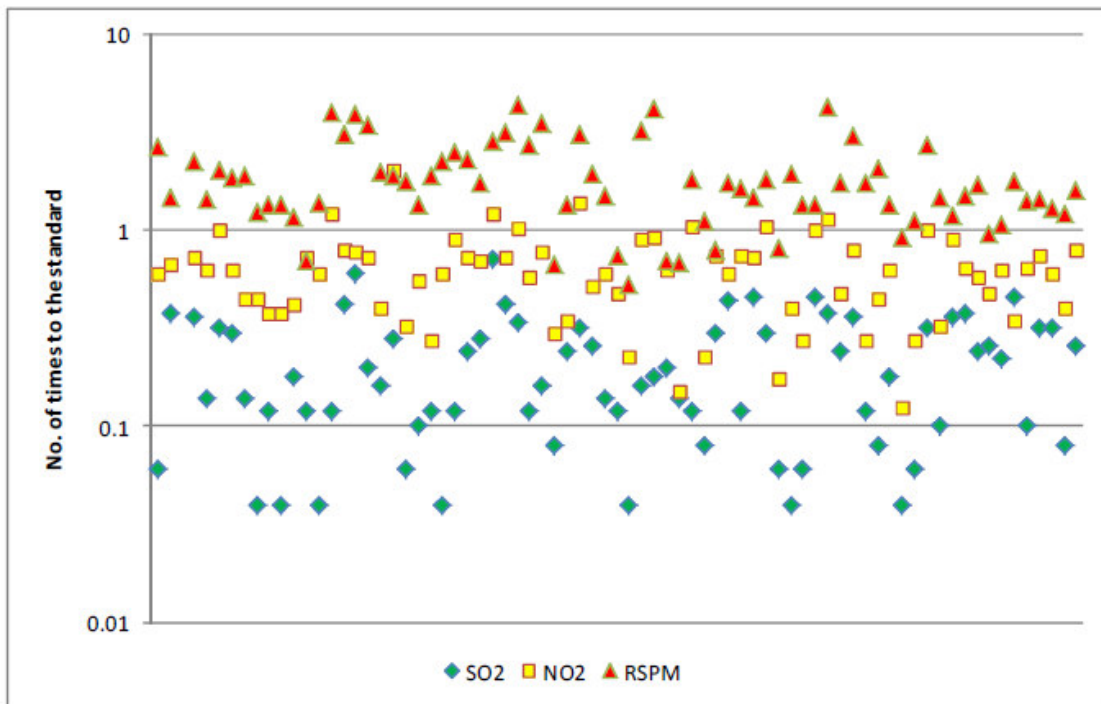


Figure 1.1 Level of SO₂, NO_x, and RSPM in various cities of the country with respect to the prescribed standards

- Each dot represent a city in the country