

**INSEE SPECIAL LECTURE**

**ZOOMING OUT TO ZOOM IN**

**AN AIRSHED APPROACH TO AIR POLLUTION IN SOUTH ASIA**

by

**MUTHUKUMARA S. MANI**

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and  
Adjunct Professor, Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown  
University

**Chaired By**

**PRASHANT GARGAVA**

**Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board**

**Air pollution exposure** is the second most important risk factor for ill health in South Asia, contributing to between 13% and 22% of all deaths. Also, approx. 58 million disability adjusted life years (DALYs) are lost through chronic and acute respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

Much of the focus so far has been on **city/local level air pollution** that looks policies for tackling stationary or mobile sources within a limited geographic area. However, this fails to recognize that air pollution is transported long distances across boundaries. This lecture will focus on an **airshed approach** to dealing with pollution across South Asia and its advantages in terms of environmental and cost-effectiveness through coordinating and cooperating across jurisdictions at a regional level.

**About the Speaker**



**Dr. Muthukumara Mani** (INSEE Life Member) is a Lead Economist in the [South Asia Chief Economist's Office](#) with over

twenty years of experience leading environmental projects, policy dialogue, analytical work and capacity building activities. He has operational experience in both the World Bank and IMF leading green growth and climate change policy dialogue, including from field office locations. He has written several high impact and policy relevant book and reports including the widely cited [South Asia's Hotspots](#) that estimates the impact of climate change on south Asia.

Prior to joining the World Bank Dr. Mani was an economist in the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund, where he was analyzed environmental impacts of macroeconomic policies and helped mainstream environmental considerations in IMF country programs.

Dr. Mani has a PhD and Masters in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

### **About the Chair**



**Dr. Prashant Gargava** is a thought leader and strategist in the field of environmental engineering and management, Dr. Gargava is a Ph.D in Environmental Engineering and a Fulbright scholar (Nevada, USA). He has more than 30 years of experience in environmental policy and regulation including air quality policy and urban air quality management.

Dr. Gargava conceptualized the [National Clean Air Program](#) (NCAP) for India and also co-authored the Guidance Framework for Air Quality Management in Asian cities for Clean Air Asia (CAA). He led India's well known [Six City Source Apportionment study](#) that guided future air quality action plans and also developed the country's first environmental databank. Not only has he spearheaded key air quality initiatives in India (including [Air Quality Index](#) (AQI) and National Air Quality Standards), but he has also delved in academic endeavours like teaching/supervising numerous students at SPA (School of Planning and Architecture) and IIT Delhi.

### **Important information**

**Date:** October 19, 2020

**Time:** 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**[Zoom Meeting Link](#)**