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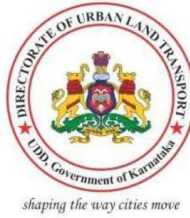
Post Event Press Release:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, Sri B. S. Yediyurappa, launched the *Clean Air Street initiative on the Church Street* on 7th November 2020 at 11.00 AM. Eight SMEs had set up technology demonstrations on air quality monitoring, electric vehicles, and thermal image scanning for the inaugural event and couple more SMEs will join in the coming days. The Hon'ble Chief Minister interacted with the SMEs participating in the testbed and later addressing the gathering, he said "Clean air to breathe is the right of every resident of this planet. Climate change crisis has become evident due to unsustainable choices we have made over a period of time, which has grave repercussions on future of mankind and as well the planet. Time to make prudent choices is now, and Karnataka would collaborate with like-minded cities/countries to mitigate this global crisis. I am happy to note that this Clean Air Street initiative on Church Street is one step towards this goal."

The Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development Department, Sri. B.A. Basavaraja Byarati said "I am delighted to know that the Clean Air Street initiative is launched at Church Street. I am sure that people will enjoy vehicle-free Church Street on weekends and as a result business would benefit. I hope with the experience of Church Street, such initiatives are also taken up in other tier-II cities".

The Minister of State for South Asia and the Commonwealth, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon communicated a video message in which he said "The launch of the Clean Air Street Initiative is an example of India's forward movement on climate action, and it





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shows what we can do when we work together. The UK, as COP26 President, is committed to join forces with all countries, with civil society, business, and with individuals, to inspire action ahead of the conference in November 2021. We owe it to our children to use this tough year to pause, reflect and build back better.”

Sri N.A, Haris, Hon’ble MLA, Shantinagar Assembly Constituency said “The Clean Air Street is a unique initiative on the iconic Church Street in Bengaluru. I firmly believe that we all need to walk, cycle and use public transport more for our cities to have better air quality. I urge people to come and experience the ambience of a pedestrianized Church Street.”

V. Manjula, Commissioner, DULT said “This is a fantastic opportunity to prove that targeted activities to reduce motor vehicle traffic can help reduce pollution, improve quality of life and be beneficial to local businesses.”

Dr. Ashish Verma, Associate Professor, Transportation Systems Engineering, IISc Bangalore said "The Church Street pilot is an important living lab initiative under Clean Air Street program to demonstrate the impact of pedestrianizing a street on Quality of Life (QoL) of people and IISc is glad to be a research partner in this initiative to carry out the impact assessment"





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Andrew Stokes, Programme Lead at Energy Systems Catapult (ESC) said “It is fantastic to be working with our partners in Bengaluru to showcase so many great innovators from the UK and India and to support the wider movement to sustainable mobility in Bengaluru. We believe this represents a collaborative model that can be replicated in other cities in India and globally”

Bob Burgoyne, Programme Lead at Connected Places Catapult (CPC) said “We are really excited to be supporting so many innovative UK and Indian start-ups in demonstrating the contribution their solutions can make to reducing emissions and measuring air quality – as well as offering tangible value to customers.”

Mr. Deepak Batavia, President, Church Street Occupants Association said “We are happy that DULT is taking the initiative and has chosen church street to be the first street in the city as a clean air street! It will also be a boost to the restaurants and pubs around the street! With good laid out plans for the residents too, I see here that everybody will benefit!”

Mr. Sathya Sankaran, the Bicycle Mayor of Bengaluru, who is also involved in this endeavour said “Cities across the world are opening up streets to a car free experience. The only way to bring back clean air is to focus on non-motorised streets. The clean air street will put Bengaluru on the world map and what a better place than church street to make that statement.”

