

PRESS RELEASE

UPPCB and iFOREST join hands to make industrial pollution data reliable

iFOREST study of pollution monitoring systems in industries across Uttar Pradesh finds online pollution monitors installed, but not properly maintained

- Since 2014, highly polluting industries mandated to install Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) so that pollution control boards get credible, real-time data on their air and water pollution levels.
- iFOREST conducted a study, with support of UPPCB, of 163 CEMS installations across 41 industries in Uttar Pradesh to check their performance.
- Most industries have installed CEMS as per the law but they are not properly calibrated and maintained resulting in unreliable data on pollution levels.
- The study has developed an 18-month roadmap to help industries fix their CEMS and move Uttar Pradesh to CEMS-based compliance.

Lucknow, 29 September 2026: Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) are automatic monitors on industrial stacks that measure pollution and report data in real time. Mandated in India since 2014, they are now installed in most of Uttar Pradesh's high polluting industries. But the data they produce is not yet reliable for regulatory use. This is the finding of a new report released today by the International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iFOREST) in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB).

The *CEMS Assessment Report & Checklist: Adoption and Implementation in Industries of Uttar Pradesh* assessed 163 CEMS installations across 41 industrial units, from thermal power and sugar to paper, textile and cement. It is part of a joint iFOREST–UPPCB initiative to strengthen real-time emission monitoring and enforcement. The report sets out an 18-month roadmap to move the state to CEMS-based compliance.

The report was released in Lucknow today in which Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, CEO, State Transformation Commission, Dr. Ravindra Pratap Singh, Chairman, UPPCB, Dr. Chandra Bhushan, CEO of iFOREST and Shri Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Member Secretary, UPPCB participated.

Speaking at the report release, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh said, “Online monitoring is the future of pollution regulation and should be scaled up across Uttar Pradesh. It can strengthen regulatory effectiveness while reducing the compliance burden on industries, particularly small industries.”

Dr. Ravindra Pratap Singh reaffirmed UPPCB’s commitment to strengthening online monitoring. He said, “UPPCB is committed to expanding and improving online monitoring systems. As part of this effort, the Board is partnering with iFOREST to build the capacity of both industries and UPPCB officials for effective implementation and use of these systems.”

Releasing the report, Dr. Chandra Bhushan said, “Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) can play an important role in reducing industrial pollution while also improving the ease of doing business. Effective CEMS implementation can lower compliance costs for industries and make regulatory processes more transparent, efficient and evidence-based. The iFOREST–UPPCB initiative aims to strengthen CEMS deployment, improve the quality and reliability of emissions data, and enable its systematic use for regulatory purposes.”

The study identified critical gaps in the steps that are essential for proper CEMS installation and operations:

- Installation of Certified CEMS: Only 27% of industries could confirm they had installed certified CEMS.
- Calibration of CEMS: Calibration was largely left to vendors resulting in inaccuracy in data from majority of CEMS.
- Use of data for compliance check: None of the industries could confirm that their data was converted to the standard format used for compliance checks.
- Verification of CEMS: There is no system to verify the correctness of installation and operations of CEMS.

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The findings also point to a clear lack of awareness and knowledge.

Under the proposed 18 months roadmap, industries will get a defined window to inspect, correct and self-certify their CEMS, using a checklist released with the report. Meanwhile, UPPCB will upgrade its systems to validate incoming data and build laboratory and training capacity.

iFOREST’s Director Shri Sanjeev Kumar Kanchan, who authored the report, will lead this initiative on behalf of iFOREST.