

## Virtually connected work from home will combat pollution: ASSOCHAM

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Allowing employees to work from home while connected virtually, dense plantation in corporate premises, ban on fossil fuels in hotels, hike in parking fee in the commercial areas and finding substitute for crop burning are some of the key anti-pollution steps that has been suggested by a ASSOCHAM report.

The recent Air Quality Report is a major initiative of ASSOCHAM, Reckitt Benckiser and EY along with AMESA, Health to face the challenge of different hygiene issues, including air pollution.

The Hygiene Index (HI) launched in October 2016, running programmes up to September, 2019 found in its latest report that the Pune



Municipal Corporation and the New Delhi Municipal Council were identified as highest performing cities in HI evaluation.

On the other hand, Bhubaneswar and Aligarh were the lowest-performing cities according to the HI.

Specific to the issue of deteriorating air quality, the report suggested several recommendations for city officials,

corporate and individual citizens. It said civic officials should "enforce pollution norms and stop use of coal and firewood in hotels and the trucks registered after 2005 should be diverted away from the city; construction material should be stored in a designated area rather than on roads and increase parking fee".

It said, offices both in the private and public sector should "move towards the trend of working from home while being virtually connected".

To discourage private vehicles on the road, the Air Quality Report suggested that the local and State Governments should increase bus/metro services while reducing their fares.

Stressing for regulating