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People's manifesto in pharma hub: Curb industrial pollution
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People's manifesto in pharma hub: Curb industrial pollution
HYDERABAD: This election season, residents of Nizampet, Bachupally and Nallagandla, have one primary demand – the newly-elected representatives must put an end to industrial pollution plaguing these area for several years now.

With their surroundings home to a chain of pharmaceutical companies, residents point out how even taking a walk has become hazardous due to the high level of pollutants in the air. Apart from a sharp rise in ozone levels, data reveals that the measure of other harmful gases such as sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM 10) too shoot up drastically every now and then.
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This results in rise in respiratory problems, especially among children and senior citizens. Also, the stench emanating from there forces most of them to keep their doors and windows shut almost always.

“We are organising a meeting on Sunday to discuss how to make local politicians accountable for this problem. We want to build pressure on them to ensure that they address this issue more effectively,” said Srinivas Velaga, a resident of Nizampet. On a social media group, he stated, “One of the ideas is to take a written commitment from them that they will dedicate one day a month to solve industrial pollution.” Though locals admit that the situation improves intermittently – each time a complaint is registered with the PCB – they demand a permanent solution.

“In 2013, the then government had issued a GO ordering that all polluting industries within the Outer Ring Road will be shifted outside it, but it's yet to be implemented. It should be rolled out at least now,” said Uma Mahesh from Nallagandla, stressing how repeated representations made to local politicians regarding this, in the past, failed to yield any result.

When contacted, the sitting Quthbullapur MLA, KP Vivekananda, maintained that the situation has been largely brought under control now.

“I won't say there's no pollution, but things are much better. However, there are efforts being made to relocate these industries to Mucherla (Pharma City area). Land has also been identified for it,” the TRS candidate from the constituency said.