

# Comparison of emission profile of black carbon and carbon monoxide over Eastern India: source apportionment and health risk impact

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## Research Article

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# Abstract

In the present study, black carbon (BC) mass concentration and carbon monoxide (CO) combination ratio were calculated simultaneously at two different cities (i.e., Jamshedpur (JSR) and Kharagpur (KGP)) located in the eastern state of India. The analysis of GIOVANI NASA data indicates the highest concentrations of BC and CO in the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) as well as the eastern part of India. The BC-CO relationship exhibited an excellent positive correlation ( $r^2 = 0.65$ ), while BC-PM<sub>2.5</sub> showed a strong positive correlation ( $r^2 > 0.96$ ). On the other hand, the backward air trajectory showed pollutant transport mainly from India's northern part with some contributions from other countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan etc. BC concentration overall health risk assessment was demonstrated as 6.27, 12.43, 11.22 and 25.60 in JSR and 2.02, 4.02, 3.63 and 8.28 in KGP, passive cigarettes comparable concerning the risk of lung cancer, low birth weight, cardiovascular mortality, and percentage lung function decrement of school-aged children.

## 1. Introduction

Particulate matters, black carbon (BC), and various gaseous air pollutants favorably impact the environment's atmosphere and climate change processes. The carbonaceous aerosols, composed of BC and organic carbon (OC), are fundamental aerosol particles and essential components (Prasad et al. 2018). Due to its small dimension, large specific surface area, and BC's irregular morphology, it makes the study unique. BC can absorb carcinogenic /mutagenic pollutants such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) through the bronchial (Janseen et al. 2012; Dachs and Eisereich 2000). Increasing aerosol emission directly affects the upper and middle troposphere. BC impacts the Earth's climate either incidentally through its behavior as cloud condensation nuclei or directly through solar radiation absorption (Bond et al. 2013). Latest studies have shown that after CO<sub>2</sub>, BC may be the next-highest contributor to the Greenhouse effect (GHE) (Liu et al. 2018; Babu and Moorthy 2002). It also contributes an essential role in comprehensive BC dispersal and radiation budget (Huang et al. 2013; He et al. 2016). It is well established that small carbonaceous particles cause severe health effects because they can easily enter the human respiratory system (Oberdorster et al. 2002). According to epidemiological studies, the respiratory health effects in children and cardiovascular diseases are significantly associated with BC (Peters et al. 2000). In the industrial area, in addition to fossil fuel-based emissions, coal and wood burning is a chief cause of air pollutants during the wintertime (Lanz et al. 2008; Szidat et al. 2006). BC emission has been continuously increasing because of urbanization, energy demands, economic growth, industrialization, uncontrolled agricultural waste burning, peat fire and wood fires in the east and south Asia regions (Chen et al. 2001). According to BC's emission estimates, about 40% of the contribution comes from open biomass burning, 40% from fossil fuel burning, and 20% from bio-fuel burning. Bio-fuel burning and agricultural residue fires have been recognized as the largest sources of BC over the Indo-Genetic Basin (IGB) areas (Venkataraman et al. 2001).

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an air pollutant and mainly emitted into the atmosphere from the incomplete burning of fossil- and bio-fuels (Sahu et al. 2020). In polluted regions, CO is emitted from domestic wood burning, cigarette smoke, chimneys, and its concentrations from 0.1 ppm in clean air to 5000 ppm in pollutant air (Fawcett et al. 1992; Hoffmann et al. 2001). However, in comparison to other pollutants, CO has longer lifetimes of 1–2 months in the atmosphere (Akimoto 2003). The prevention and emission control measure of CO is an essential aspect of public health. CO is an indirect greenhouse gas through the production of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) (Girach et al. 2014). Typically, CO and BC are co-emitted from incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels (Wang et al. 2020). In addition to various anthropogenic or fuel-based emissions, forest/wildfire activities significantly impact the variability of BC, CO, and O<sub>3</sub> in the Northern Hemisphere (Bond et al. 2011; Vander et al. 2006). Overall, biomass burning is a significant source of climate-altering species and atmospheric pollutants (Simmonds et al. 2005). Incomprehensible deaths illnesses are linked to malfunctioning chimneys resulting in CO poisoning. CO makes it a widespread source of poisoning and unnatural death in the USA. Despite that CO is not on the list of chemical weapons (Elsayed et al. 2006).

We have conducted the measurements of ambient air BC, CO, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations from October 2019 to January 2020 in two different eastern Indian cities to assess their source apportionment and health risk impact. The observations of BC and CO concentrations at JSR and KGP cities will help understand the dominant local sources of carbonaceous aerosols, health risks, and the role of atmospheric conditions over East India.

## 2. Geographical Location Of Sampling Sites

The locations of KGP and JSR in India's map and localities images in these two cities are displayed in Fig-1. PM<sub>2.5</sub>, BC and CO concentrations were collected from two different cities in India eastern part. The KGP city (22° 33' N, 87° 32' E) is situated in the state (province) of West Bengal and JSR city (22° 80' N, 86° 20' E) is located in the state of Jharkhand. KGP is the fifth most populated and fourth-largest city in the area wise after Kolkata, Durgapur, and Asansol cities of West Bengal. The total area of KGP is about 127 km<sup>2</sup> in the southern part of West Medinipur district and this town is formed with the alluvial tract and Dalma Pahar of Medinipur. It has a tropical savanna climate. The average temperatures are around 22°C and 30°C in winter and summer, respectively. The mean annual precipitation is around 1401 mm. According to the 2011 census, KGP had a population of 293,719. KGP city is surrounded by a railway network, National Highways (NH) network, Vidhyasagar industrial park, Railway Workshop, etc. In Vidhyasagar industrial park, so many small and large industries are situated.

JSR city is located over the Chhota Nagpur Plateau (CNP) region in the southern part of Jharkhand state, India. JSR is a densely populated city, and according to the 2011 census, the residents of the city is about 1.3 million. The world-known largest industries, namely the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO), TATA motors and are located in JSR city. The Adityapur Industrial Development Authority (AIDA) region is very close to JSR city, where more than 1001 companies (minor, average, and big enterprises) are located. Air pollutants major sources in these two cities are chiefly emissions from industrial activities, transportation discharges, road construction, and town construction.

## 3. Measurements And Methodologies

### 3.1. Measurement of BC mass concentration

Continuous real-time measurement of BC mass concentrations was performed with the Aethalometer (Model AE-33, Magee Scientific Company, USA) instrument. BC aerosol's mass concentration was deduced from the analysis of seven different wavelengths i.e., 370 nm, 470 nm, 525 nm, 590 nm, 660 nm, 880 nm, and 940 nm. Out of all wavelengths, 880 nm, a light ray from a high energy light-emitting-diode light was transferred through the sample collected on the filter strip. This is a simple and efficient technique to measure BC's ambient air mass concentration associated to the supplementary design alike the coefficient of haze tape sample, particle soot absorption photometer (PSAP), melting oxidation/reflectance, etc. (Allen et al. 1999). This technique is based on attenuation of light due to the mass load of BC particles accumulate on a filter. The air inlet is equipped on the Department of Chemistry rooftop, NIT JSR city, and Railway quarter building at KGP city. Atmospheric air is drawn through the inlet line at the flow rate (~ 5 LPM), which hit on a quartz filter. BC mass concentrations were recorded on the duration of every 5 minutes. Bestowing to the guideline and literature reviews, 880 nm is the regular wavelength to measure BC mass concentration. BC shows principal absorber of energy at this wavelength and other aerosol components have negligible absorption (Weingartner et al. 2003).

### 3.2. Measurement of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and CO concentrations

PM<sub>2.5</sub> was also examined along with BC and CO concentrations in both the cities. The PM<sub>2.5</sub> sample was collected using a mini volume sampler (Envirotech Model APM 550) from October 2019 to January 2020. The mini sized sampler was operated at a constant flow rate of 16.5 L/m<sup>3</sup>. PTFE filter (47 mm, Merck, catalog no- PM2547050) was used to gather particulate matter (PM). At first, the filter paper was weighed before and after the sampling and kept in a desiccator.

Weight balance with a single pan-top loading digital weight balance (VWR, Model no: VWR1611-2263: with measuring apartment L×W×H: 162×171×225 mm). Background infection was investigate using operational blanks (unexposed filters), which were processed concurrently with field samples. Moreover, the sample filter was stored in a desiccator box. These samples were held at 4° C for storage and then weights of filter paper before sampling and after sampling was measured.

Similarly, CO concentration was also measured in both cities. The concentration (mixing ratio) of CO was carried out using a extensive gas filter non-dispersive IR (infrared) gas analyzer (Thermo Scientific. Model 48C, USA). A Nafion has been used to reduce water vapor interferences present in air samples (ambient air). The time resolution and detection limits were 1 min and 30 ppbv for 2 min average, respectively. The equipment baseline signal was determined in the first 15 min of each hour by supplying zero-air. Before the ambient air measurements, the span calibration was performed carefully.

### 3.3. Health risk assessment

In the current study, health risk estimates of BC pollution were carried out to determine the disease's overall concern due to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) exposure. Our evaluations are based on the assumptions reported in van der Zee et al. 2016, i.e., 14 daily cigarette utilization as per WHO assessment for smokers in the US as well as North-West Europe. The health risks of BC pollution are approximately equal to passive smoking (Niranjan et al. 2017; Vander et al. 2006). There are mainly three-zone reasons to co-relate the health risk between passive smoking and BC. These zones (a) both hazards have equal exposure through inhalation (b) both hazards have some type of health effects and (c) exposure to both ETS and atmospheric BC pollution is commonly spontaneous (Vander et al. 2006). In the present study, we have assessed the health risk of atmospheric BC pollution to local inhabitants of two different cities in the eastern part of India. In JSR and KGP cities, analogous extents of passive cigarette smoking for potential receptors are comprehended. According to recent scientific studies, people living in different parts of the world are facing serious health threats like non-cancer (respiration related problems, cardiovascular problems, etc.) and cancer (especially lung cancer) diseases due to exposure to BC (Magalhaes et al. 2018; Kelly et al. 2015). the small particulate size of BC is direct air inhalations from local or regional sources' proximity. Van der et al. (2016) has developed a module by which we can easily calculate the health risk evaluation based on ETS. The ETS values are helpful to estimate the risks of BC exposure related to the following four different health issues. i.e., (i) lung cancer (LC), (ii) low birth weight (LBW), (iii) cardiovascular mortality (CVM), and (iv) percentage lung function decrement of school-aged children (PLFDSC). The links between all the four health issues with both ETS exposure and BC pollution are well established (Kelly et al. 2015; Oberg et al. 2010; WHO 2014). The estimation of health risk primarily depends on relative risks (RRs) relative to a different health issue for air pollutants like ETS exposure and BC pollution; where RR refers to the possibility of growing an illness induced by the exposure to air pollutants (Rothman et al. 2008; WHO 2003). The value of  $RR_{BC}$  and  $RR_{ETS}$  are derived from detailed, systematic reviews and can be summarized to implement the relevant, yet immature, health risk estimates. The specified change in BC concentration and health risk issue was characterized by a meta-analysis of recorded concentration-response functions (CRFs). For a particular health issue (i.e., R), the BC concentration increases by  $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , equivalent to the number of passively smoked cigarettes (PSC) (Vander et al. 2006). Therefore, R is written as

$$R = [\ln(RR_{BC})/\Delta\text{Concentration}] / [\ln(RR_{ETS})/\text{assumed number of PSC}] \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Where,

$[\ln(RR_{BC})/\Delta\text{Concentration}]$  = the resultant risks for change in  $\Delta\text{Concentration}$  (i.e.,  $1 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ ) of BC.

$[\ln(RR_{ETS})/\text{assumed number of PSC}]$  = the resultant risks of ETS exposure for the assumed number of PSC per day.

$RR_{BC}$  = RR of BC concerning particular health issues.

$RR_{ETS}$  = RR of ETS concerning particular health issues.

The values of  $RR_{ETS}$  and  $RR_{BC}$  were taken from van der et al. (2006) and Pani et al. (2020). The assumed number of PSC varies depending on the case. In the case of PLFDSC, the assumed number of PSC per day is 9. For the child of the non-smoking mother, the assumed number of PSC per day is 7 for CVM and LC as well as for adults about the risk of LBW (Vander et al. 2006). The following equations estimate the equivalent numbers of PSC per day (i.e., NPSC: passive cigarette-equivalence).

$$NPSC = R \times \Delta BC \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

and

$$\Delta BC = [(BC_{obs}) - (BC_{bac})] \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

Where,

$BC_{obs}$  = Observed Black Carbon Aerosol and  $BC_{bac}$  = Background Black Carbon Aerosol.

### 3.4. Source appropriation

Significant sources of BC aerosols are incomplete combustions of biofuel burning and fossil fuel in the atmosphere (Petzold et al. 2013). The aethalometer model was used to determine BC's source appropriation (Fuller et al. 2014; Sciare et al. 2011). Although this model identifies broad source categories like wood-burning, traffic emission, fossil fuel, etc. but requires seven different wavelength light absorption data sets (Zotter et al. 2017). This model was the latest and easiest among other methods or models like principal component analysis (PCA) (Thepnuan et al. 2019), Positive matrix factorization (PMF) (Florou et al. 2017), the radiocarbon method (Zhang et al. 2015), the macro-tracer method (Larsen et al. 2012), chemical mass balance (CMB) (Favez et al. 2010), and other specialized models (Belis et al. 2013). To characterize different local sources of BC at JSR and KGP cities, we have calculated the percentage difference of BC measured at two different wavelengths of 370 nm and 880 nm, i.e.,  $BC_{370}$   $BC_{880}$ , respectively. The percentage difference of BC can be written as

$$\% \text{ difference of BC} = (BC_{370} - BC_{880})/BC_{880} \dots\dots\dots (5)$$

From Eq. (5), two cases may arise, Case-I for fossil fuel and case-II for wood burning.

Case-I: - The negative fractional BC values suggest major contributions from the combustion of diesel and petrol (Herich et al. 2011).

Case-II: - The positive fractional BC values suggest major contributions from the forest fire, domestic use product like coal, dry leaf, etc. (Wang et al. 2011). We also describe the source appropriation of BC, CO, and  $PM_{2.5}$  mass concentrations with the help of air backward trajectory.

## 4. Results And Discussion

### 4.1. Variation of BC, CO, and $PM_{2.5}$

BC's mass concentrations were measured from October 2019 to January 2020 at two different places in the eastern part of India. The average BC mass concentrations of  $10.06 \pm 1.59 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  at JSR and  $5.49 \pm 1.15$  at KGP were measured during the study period. The variations in monthly mean BC mass concentration along with standard deviation from October 2019 to January 2020 are shown in Fig. 3.a. In JSR, the monthly average BC mass concentrations were  $8.99 \pm 1.77$ ,  $9.73 \pm$

1.84,  $10.81 \pm 1.82$  and  $10.53 \pm 0.97 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in October, November, December of 2019 and January 2020, respectively. In KGP, the monthly average BC mass concentrations were  $5.05 \pm 0.60$ ,  $4.95 \pm 0.47$ ,  $6.67 \pm 1.74$  and  $5.62 \pm 0.89 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in October, November, December of 2019 and January 2020, respectively. From sample-to-sample, BC concentrations varied in the ranges of  $6.49\text{--}12.83 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  at JSR and  $4.36\text{--}10.23 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  at KGP. The analysis of satellite (GIOVANI NASA) data reveals much higher loadings of BC aerosols over the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) than other regions of India. It was also demonstrated that the BC mass concentrations were reported to be approximately  $3.5 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  to  $5 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  during study period (Fig- 2.a).

Simultaneously, CO and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations were also measured from October 2019 to January 2020 in JSR and KGP cities. The average CO concentrations of  $913.63 \pm 217.85$  ppbv at JSR and  $507.31 \pm 125.06$  ppbv at KGP were measured during the study period. The average  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations were  $176.34 \pm 24.40 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  at JSR and  $107.28 \pm 13.60 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  at KGP. The monthly mean concentrations of CO and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  along with standard deviations are shown in Fig. 3.b and Fig. 3.c, respectively. In JSR, the average CO concentrations of  $953.89 \pm 278.12$ ,  $870.47 \pm 172.12$ ,  $958.53 \pm 196.24$  and  $871.31 \pm 236.41$  ppbv were measured in October, November, December of 2019 and January 2020, respectively. The average  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations were  $162.78 \pm 32.43$ ,  $179.98 \pm 25.16$ ,  $183.93 \pm 21.63$  and  $177.55 \pm 15.82 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in October, November, December of 2019 and January 2020, respectively. Overall, CO concentrations varied in the range of 416–1402.32 ppbv and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in the range of  $105.98\text{--}210 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  during the study period. In KGP, the average CO concentrations were  $542.75 \pm 96.30$ ,  $419 \pm 97.63$ ,  $538.54 \pm 114.01$  and  $535 \pm 160.37$  ppbv in October, November, December of 2019 and January 2020, respectively. While  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations were  $103.54 \pm 9.04$ ,  $101.74 \pm 7.76$ ,  $118.73 \pm 20.42$  and  $106.265 \pm 9.19 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in October, November, December of 2019 and January 2020, respectively. CO concentrations varied from 257.8 to 840.6 ppbv and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations varied from 87.13 to  $163.12 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  during the study period. The GIOVANI NASA data analysis indicates significantly higher concentrations of CO over the IGP compared to other regions of India. The GIOVANI CO concentrations were 450–773 ppbv in India's eastern part during the study period (Fig- 2.b).

The concentrations of BC, CO, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in JSR were higher than those in KGP. More and more industries are present, dense traffic connectivity, and more vehicles than KGP, where fewer sectors, moderate traffic connectivity, and fewer cars are current.

## 4.2. Health risk assessment

We have attempted to evaluate the health risk assessments of BC in both cities. The health risk assessment summary indicated an equal number of PSC for a particular investigation period, as shown in Table-3. We considered that the day to daily exposure level of BC for the people living in JSR city and KGP city was equivalent to day to day mean BC (balance load concerning the background BC) level. According to previous studies, the estimates were presented for an increment of  $1 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in BC concentration. As per Rupakheti et al. (2017), the background BC ( $\text{BC}_{\text{bac}}$ ) concentration level was determined as the 1.25th percentile of the observed BC ( $\text{BC}_{\text{obs}}$ ) concentrations, which are  $6.571 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for JSR city and  $4.362 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for KGP city. These increments are generally used to explicit relative risks of BC mass concentration of JSR city. The health risk assessment of BC aerosols concentration was demonstrated as 6.27, 12.43, 11.22 and 25.60 passive cigarettes-comparable concerning the risk of CVM, LC, LBW, and PLEDSC, respectively. And in KGP city, the health risk assessment of BC aerosols concentration was notice as 2.02, 4.02, 3.63 and 8.28 passive cigarettes comparable concerning the risk of CVM, LC, LBW, and PLEDSC, respectively. It was noticed that the health risk issue is higher in JSR city as compared to KGP city during the study period. This is because of increased air pollutants like BC, CO, and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in JSR city compared to KGP city.

CO is a very serious air pollutant in the atmosphere. CO affects human health very drastically. It hard bond with hemoglobin (Hb) molecule and forming carboxyhemoglobin (COHb). As a result, the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood is reduced. Hb's affinity for CO is higher than an affinity for oxygen, i.e., 210 to 300 times higher than its affinity for oxygen.

## 4.3 source appropriation of BC and CO

The aethalometer model was used to determine the major sources of BC in ambient air. While the projected model was characterized by a few selective source-categories like traffic emission and wood-burning. According to SAFAR 2010, the primary sources of BC were coal burning, and it is the highest source of energy that supplies 76% of our requirement in India. The origins of BC aerosols and CO may have the same, but their source apportionment techniques are different. According to a previous study, it was observed that the analysis of BC measured at 370 nm (UV) wavelengths and 880 nm (near-IR) wavelengths were made, which is favorable for the source identification of BC mass concentration (Sivastava et al. 2012). There are two types of processes for sources of BC mass concentration. One is anthropogenic activities like biomass burning for agriculture, coal burning, burning of fossil fuel, vehicular movements, and another natural process like volcanic eruptions, forest fires, etc. Still, fossil fuel and wood-burning are the major sources. The source differentiates between wood-burning and fossil fuel in different cities were different, as shown in Fig. 6. In JSR city, the fossil fuel contribution was approx. 60 % and wood-burning contribution approx. 40 % toward the source appropriation of BC mass concentration. In KGP city, the fossil fuel contribution was approx. 57.57 % and wood-burning contribution approx. 42.42 % toward the source appropriation of BC mass concentration. Fossil fuel contribution was higher in JSR city as compared to KGP city. It indicates that the traffic load was increased in JSR city than the KGP city of East India.

## 4.4. Backward trajectories analysis

The back trajectories were calculated for both the cities. Backward trajectory analysis helps to understand the sources and transport pathways of air pollutants. It also determines the airflow direction to describe the possible source regions before they reach a specific target. The trajectories were prepared with the help of Igor software. The trajectories data were taken from the Climate Forecast System, and Meteorological Data Explorer developed by the Centre for Global Environmental Research (CGER), Japan and a global environmental dataset online program National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). Backward trajectories plots are shown in Fig. 5. The back air trajectory analysis indicates that air masses' transport originates from different places from different heights. It can be noticed that air-borne particulate (maybe air pollutants) is transported from the northern part of India. In the JSR region, air masses originated over the north of Jammu and Kashmir, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh before entering the eastern state Bihar and some part Jharkhand. Some trajectories also suggest the transport from the north-east states of India. Transport of air masses originated over neighboring countries like Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan can also be noticed. In the KGP region, maximum air particulate matter was coming from the northern state, i.e., from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh eastern state Bihar, Jharkhand and some part of West Bengal. It was also seen that air particulate matter again came from the north-east state, i.e., from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and other states. Air particulate matter was also coming from some other countries Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. The backward air trajectories were shown in Fig. 6.

## 4.4 Correlation between BC and CO

BC and CO are emitted from incomplete combustion of carbon-based fuels (Wang et al. 2015). The concentrations of both BC and CO in JSR city were higher than those in KGP city. As shown in the scatter plot (Fig- 7.b), the concentrations of BC and CO show an excellent positive correlation ( $r^2 = 0.653$ ) with an average slope ( $\Delta BC/\Delta CO$ ) of 6.125 g BC/g CO. The BC-CO correlation parameters determined for different sites are presented in Table 4. The previous studies reporting good correlations between BC mass concentration and CO concentration are mainly due to proximate of familiar sources such as traffic emission. Emissions from petrol-fueled vehicles are known to be fewer sources of BC and CO compared to diesel-fueled cars. An earlier study on automobile exhausts has suggested that light-duty petrol engines emit lesser amounts of BC and CO than heavy-duty vehicles such as diesel trucks (Chen et al. 2001). Far away from the sources, the measurements over the Northern Indian Ocean (Arabian Sea) also suggested a strong positive correlation ( $r^2 = 0.71$ ) between BC and CO concentrations with a slope of 27.103 g BC/ g CO [49] (Bracero et al., 2002). According to Chen et al. (2001), BC mass concentration and CO concentration are strongly correlated along with an annual average slope of

3.48103 g BC/ g CO [50]. As shown in Fig. 7.a., we observed a strong positive correlation ( $r^2 = 0.97$ ) between BC and  $PM_{2.5}$  mass concentrations, suggesting their common emission sources at both the sites. Figure 4. indicated the variation of BC mass concentration and CO concentration at two different East India cities. As the winter season starts, BC mass concentration was starting to increase in both the cities. This is maybe the reason for crop residue burning in the nearest village area of these two cities.

Table 1

Meteorological parameter data at two different cities of East India. i.e., Jamshedpur (JSR) city and Kharagpur (KGP) city during sampling period.

	JSR city			KGP city		
	Temp.	Hum.	W.S	Temp.	Hum.	W.S
	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD	Mean $\pm$ SD
<b>Oct-19</b>	26.81 $\pm$ 1.99	74.93 $\pm$ 7.80	7.06 $\pm$ 4.46	27.68 $\pm$ 0.84	78.11 $\pm$ 4.70	5.93 $\pm$ 1.66
<b>Nov-19</b>	23.47 $\pm$ 1.50	69.13 $\pm$ 4.46	4.2 $\pm$ 2.54	24.13 $\pm$ 1.48	73.56 $\pm$ 5.54	4.69 $\pm$ 1.50
<b>Dec-19</b>	19.51 $\pm$ 2.11	68.35 $\pm$ 7.30	5.81 $\pm$ 6.50	21.47 $\pm$ 1.58	69.31 $\pm$ 6.58	7.14 $\pm$ 4.37
<b>Jan-20</b>	19.30 $\pm$ 1.93	61.00 $\pm$ 5.15	2.53 $\pm$ 0.76	20.25 $\pm$ 2.50	64.84 $\pm$ 6.49	4.25 $\pm$ 4.12

Where, **Temp.** = Temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C), **Hum.** = Humidity (%), **W.S** = Wind Speed (km/s) and **SD** = Standard Deviation.

Table 2

Monthly mean of  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations, mass concentrations of BC and CO concentration at two different cities of East India.

	JSR city				KGP city							
	$PM_{2.5}$		$PM_{2.5}$		$PM_{2.5}$		$PM_{2.5}$		BC		CO	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
<b>Oct-19</b>	162.78	32.43	8.99	1.77	953.89	278.12	103.54	9.04	5.05	0.60	542.75	96.30
<b>Nov-19</b>	179.98	25.16	9.73	1.84	870.47	172.12	101.74	7.76	4.95	0.47	419.51	97.63
<b>Dec-19</b>	183.93	21.63	10.81	1.27	958.53	196.24	118.73	20.42	6.67	1.74	538.54	114.01
<b>Jan-20</b>	177.55	15.82	10.53	0.97	871.31	236.41	106.26	9.19	5.62	0.89	535	160.37

Where,  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations in  $\mu g m^{-3}$ ; **BC** mass concentration in  $\mu g m^{-3}$ ; and **CO** concentration in pbbv

**Table3:** - The health risk estimates of BC communicated into equivalent numbers of PSC per day with respect to four various health issues at two different cities.

Parameters	JSR city	KGP city
<b>CVM</b>	6.27	2.02
<b>LC</b>	12.43	4.02
<b>LBW</b>	11.22	3.63
<b>PLEDSC</b>	25.60	8.28

Where, **PSC**: Passively smoked cigarettes, **CVM**: Cardiovascular mortality; **LC**: Lung cancer; **LBW**: Low birth weight; **PLFDSC**: Percentage lung function decrement of school-aged children;

Table 4  
Comparison of BC mass concentration and CO concentration relation with other studies.

Parameters	Correlation	Slope	References
BC Vs. CO	0.74	$12.5 \times 10^{-3}$	Rhoads et al., 1997
BC Vs. CO	0.74	$15 \times 10^{-3}$	Chowdhury et al., 2001
BC Vs. CO	0.74	$3.4 \times 10^{-3}$	Chen et al., 2001
BC Vs. CO	0.71	$27 \times 10^{-3}$	Bracero et al., 2002
BC Vs. CO	0.81	$15.5 \times 10^{-3}$	Lobert and Harris 2002
BC Vs. CO	0.074	$3.48 \times 10^{-3}$	Stehar et al., 2002
BC Vs. CO	0.074	$6.4 \times 10^{-3}$	Latha et al., 2004
BC Vs. CO	0.653	$6.125 \times 10^{-3}$	present study

## Conclusion

Measurements of BC mass concentrations, CO concentration and  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations were reported in two different East India cities, i.e., one is JSR city and the other is KGP city. The averaged BC mass concentrations were reported in JSR city to be around  $10.06 \pm 1.59 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and in KGP city to be around  $5.49 \pm 1.15 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  during the study period. The maximum BC mass concentration was observed in December 2019, i.e.,  $10.81 \pm 1.27 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in JSR city and  $6.67 \pm 1.74 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in KGP city. BC mass concentration was varying from  $6.49 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  to  $12.83 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and from  $4.36 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  to  $10.23 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in JSR city and KGP city, respectively. Similarly, the averaged CO concentrations were noticed to be around  $913.63 \pm 217.85$  ppbv and  $507.31 \pm 125.06$  ppbv in JSR city and KGP city, respectively, during the study period. The maximum CO concentration was observed in December 2019, i.e.,  $958.53 \pm 196.24$  ppbv and minimum in November 2019, i.e.,  $870.47 \pm 172.12$  ppbv and CO concentration varied from 416 ppbv to 1402.32 ppbv in JSR city. Similarly, in KGP city, the CO concentration was observed maximum in October 2019, i.e.,  $542.75 \pm 96.30$  ppbv and minimum in November 2019, i.e.,  $419.51 \pm 97.63$  ppbv and CO concentration varied from 257.80 ppbv to 840.60 ppbv. The averaged  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations were observed in JSR city to be around  $176.34 \pm 24.40 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and in KGP city to be around  $107.28 \pm 13.60 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  during study period. The maximum  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations were reported in December 2019, i.e.,  $183.93 \pm 21.63 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and  $118.73 \pm 20.42 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and minimum concentration were reported in October 2019, i.e.,  $162.78 \pm 32.43 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and in November 2019 i.e.,  $101.74 \pm 7.76 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in JSR city and KGP city, respectively, during the study period. And also,  $PM_{2.5}$

concentrations were varying from  $105.98 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  to  $210 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and from  $87.13 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  to  $163.12 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  in JSR city and KGP city respectively. According to BC's diagnostic ratio analysis, it was noticed that the fossil fuel contribution was approx. 60 % and wood-burning contribution approx. 40 % in JSR city and the fossil fuel contribution was approx. 57.57 % and wood-burning contribution approx. 42.42 % in KGP city. The wood-burning contribution was higher in KGP city than JSR city during the study period. This is because of more industrialization and high traffic load in JSR city. According to backward air trajectories analysis shows that in the JSR region, the maximum air particulate coming from the northern state, eastern state, and some part Jharkhand. Few particulates come from north-east states and other countries like Pakistan, Nepal, and Bhutan. Similarly, in the KGP region, air particulate matter came from a northern state, eastern, north-east state and some parts of West Bengal and came from some other countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan. The entire health risk assessment of BC concentration was reported as 6.27, 12.43, 11.22 and 25.60 in JSR city and 2.02, 4.02, 3.63 and 8.28 in KGP city, the passive cigarettes comparable concerning the risk of CVM, LC, LBW, and PLEDSC, respectively.

## Declarations

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**Availability of data and materials:** Not applicable

**Author contribution Conceptualisation:** BA, TKS, LKS, SG and ASG. Data curation: BA, TKS, and LKS. Formal analysis: BA, TKS, ASG, and SG. Funding acquisition: BA. Investigation: BA, TKS, LKS, SG, and ASG. Methodology: BA, and TKS. Project administration and resource: BA. Software: BA, TKS, and LKS. Supervision and validation: BA, TKS, LKS, ASG and SG. Visualisation: BA, TKS, LKS, ASG and SG. Writing original draft: BA, LKS, and SG. Writing - review and editing: BA, SG, ASG.

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### Declarations

**Ethics approval and consent to participate:** Not applicable

**Consent for publication:** Not applicable

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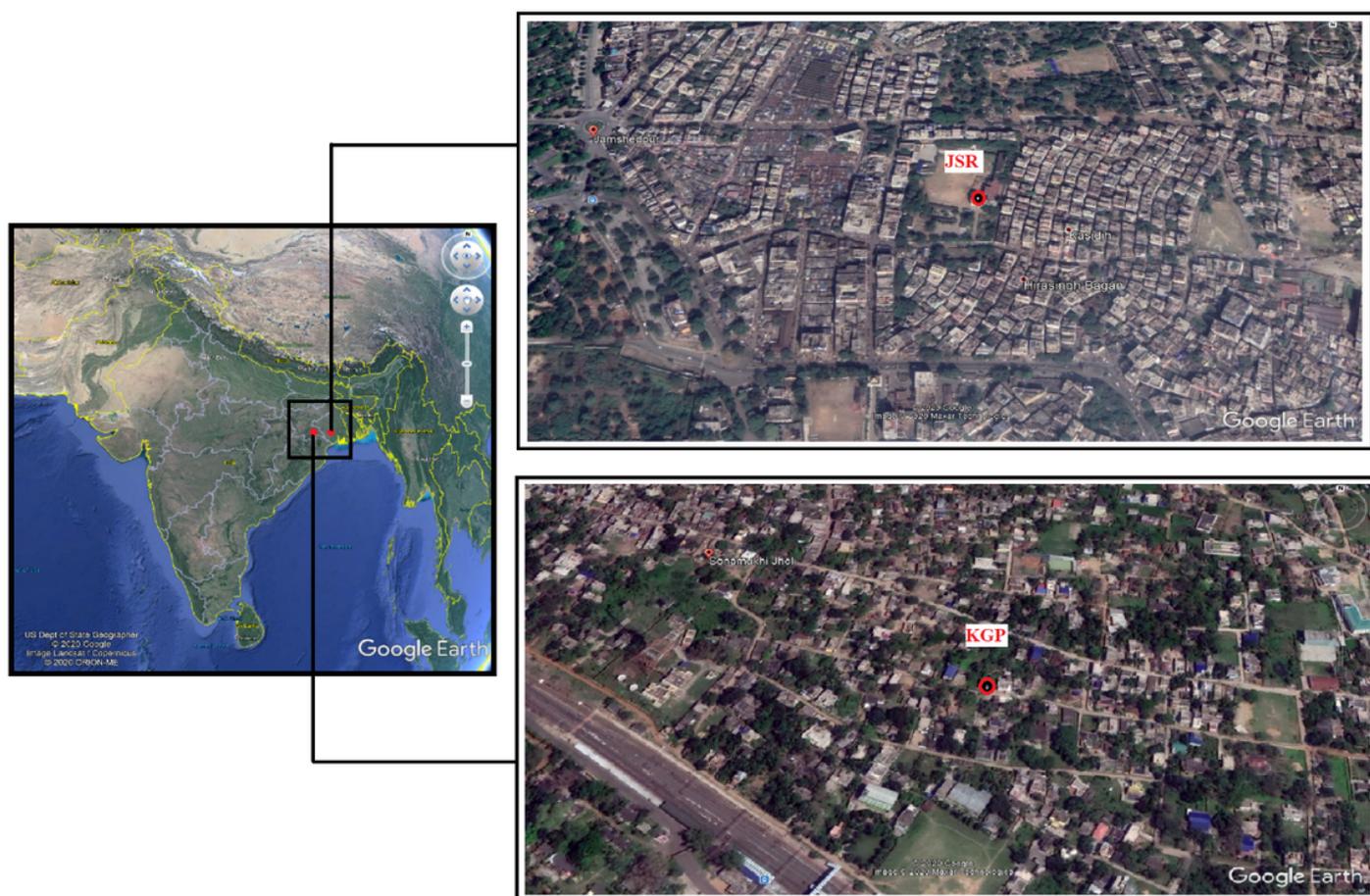
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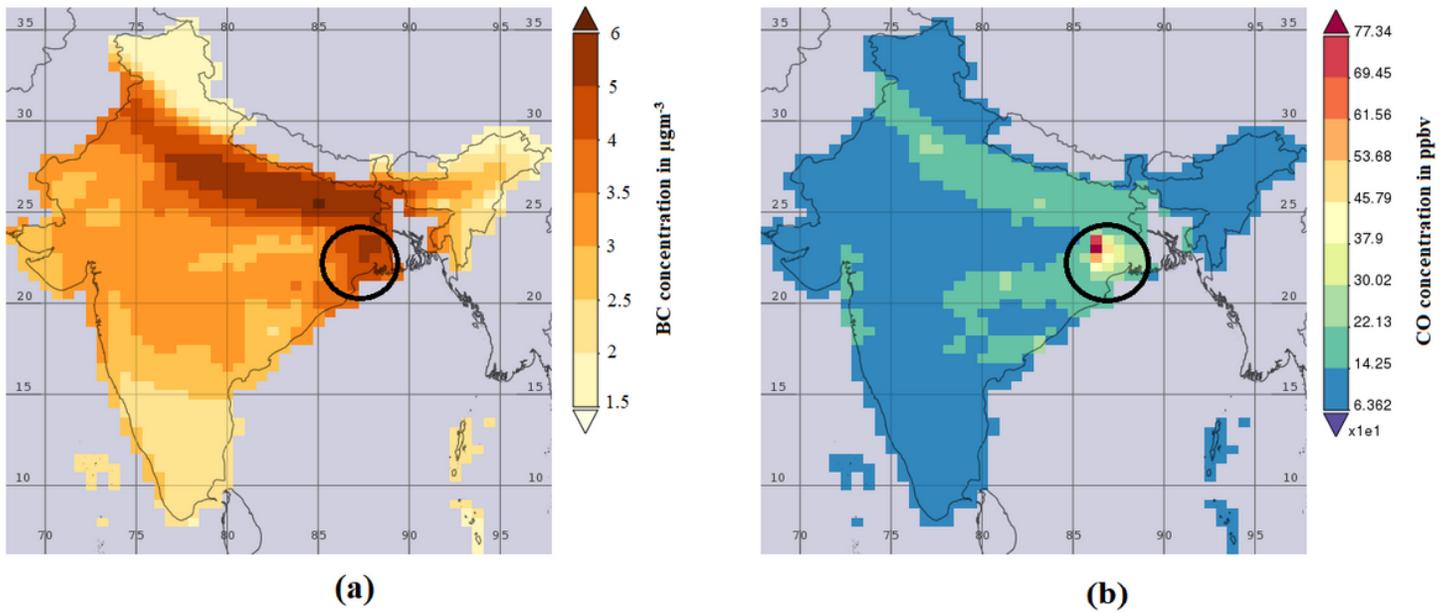
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## Figures



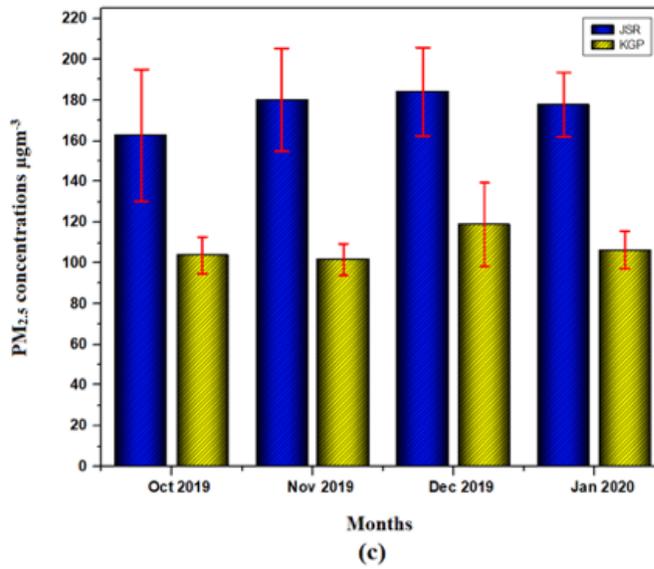
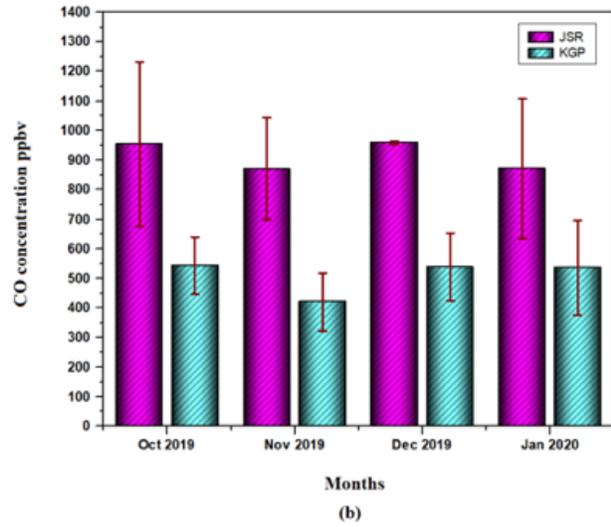
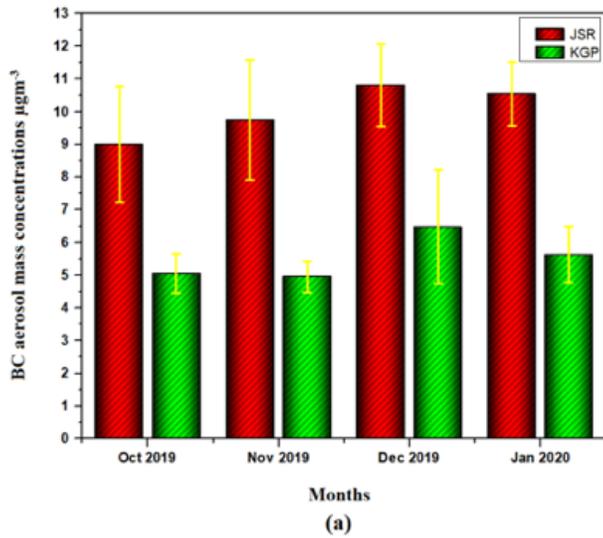
**Figure 1**

Satellite aerial view (Google Earth) of the sampling area and location of two different cities of Jamshedpur (JSR) and Kharagpur (KGP) in the eastern part of India. Note: The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Research Square concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This map has been provided by the authors.



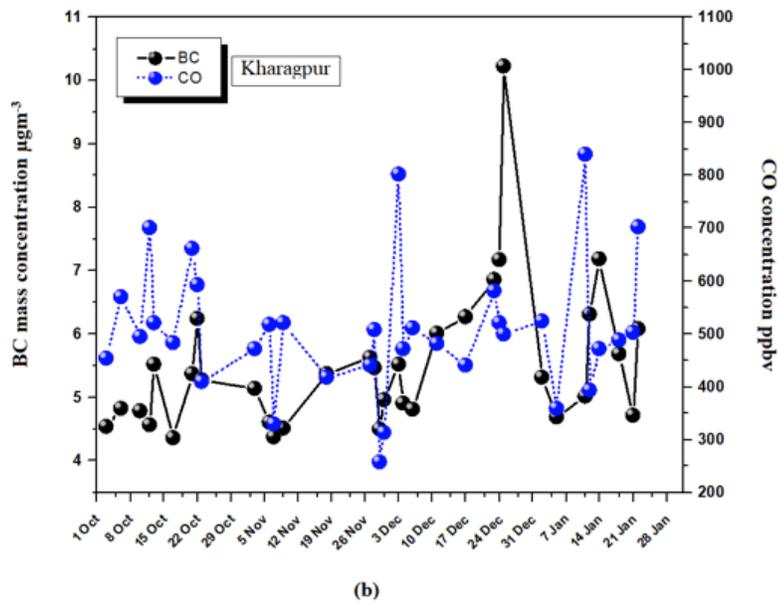
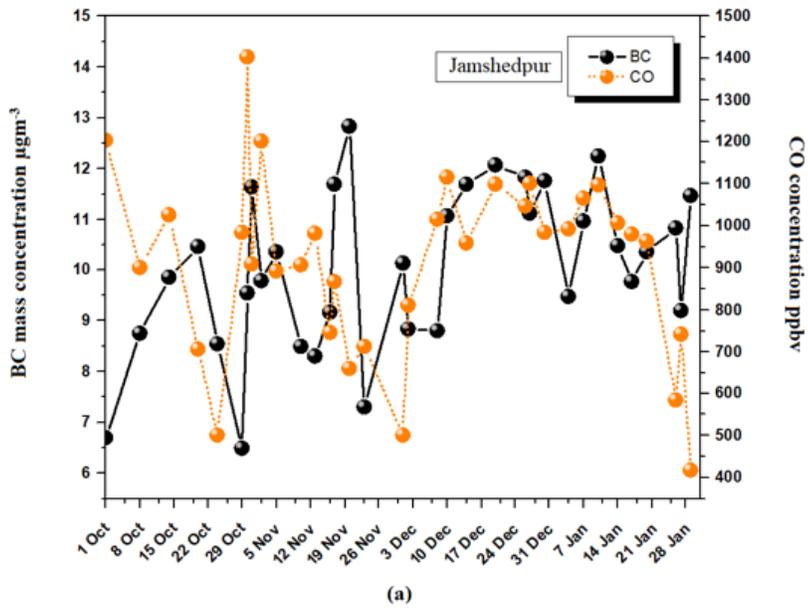
**Figure 2**

(a) Time average map of Black carbon surface mass concentration monthly  $0.5 \times 0.625$  deg. [MERRA-2 Model M2TMNXAER v 5.12.4]  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  and (b) Time average map of CO concentration in ppbv (ENSEMBLE) monthly  $0.5 \times 0.625$  deg. [MERRA-2 Model M2TMNXCHM v 5.12.4] ppbv, over Oct-2019 to Jan-2020, India. Note: The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Research Square concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This map has been provided by the authors.



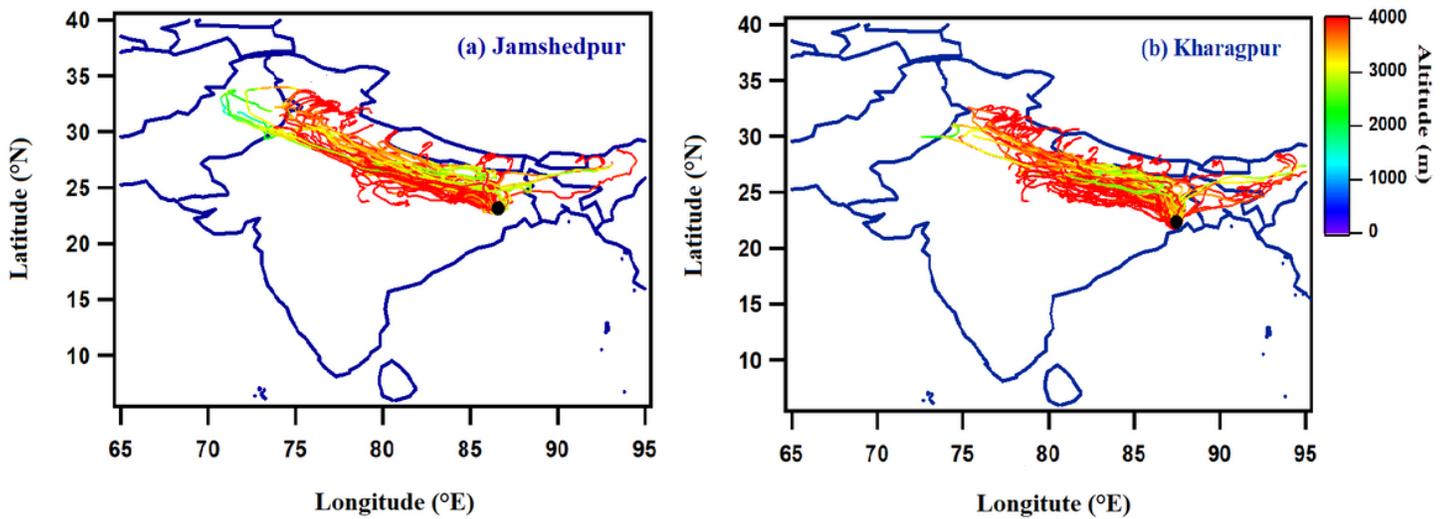
**Figure 3**

Average concentrations of (a) BC mass concentration; (b) CO concentration; and (c)  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentration at two different cities of Jamshedpur (JSR) and Kharagpur (KGP) in the eastern part of India. The vertical line represents 1-sigma variation (standard deviation).



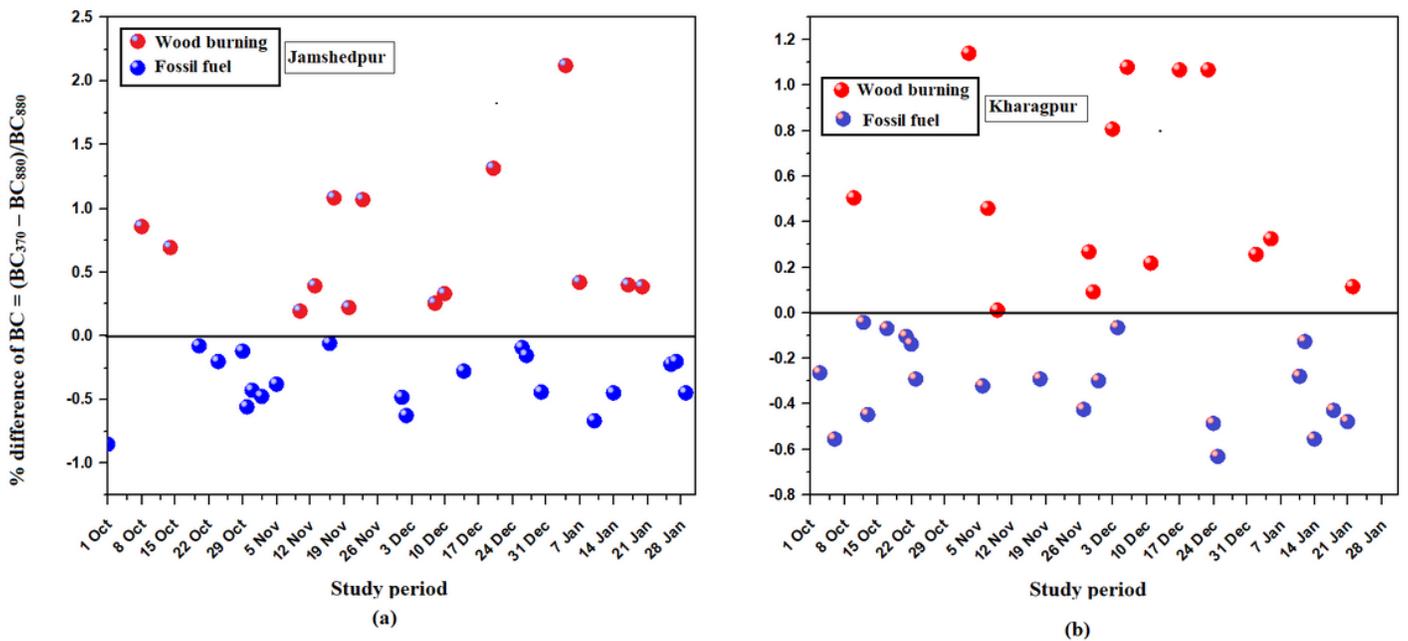
**Figure 4**

Daily variation of BC and CO concentration at two different cities (a) JSR city, and (b) KGP city of East India during study period.



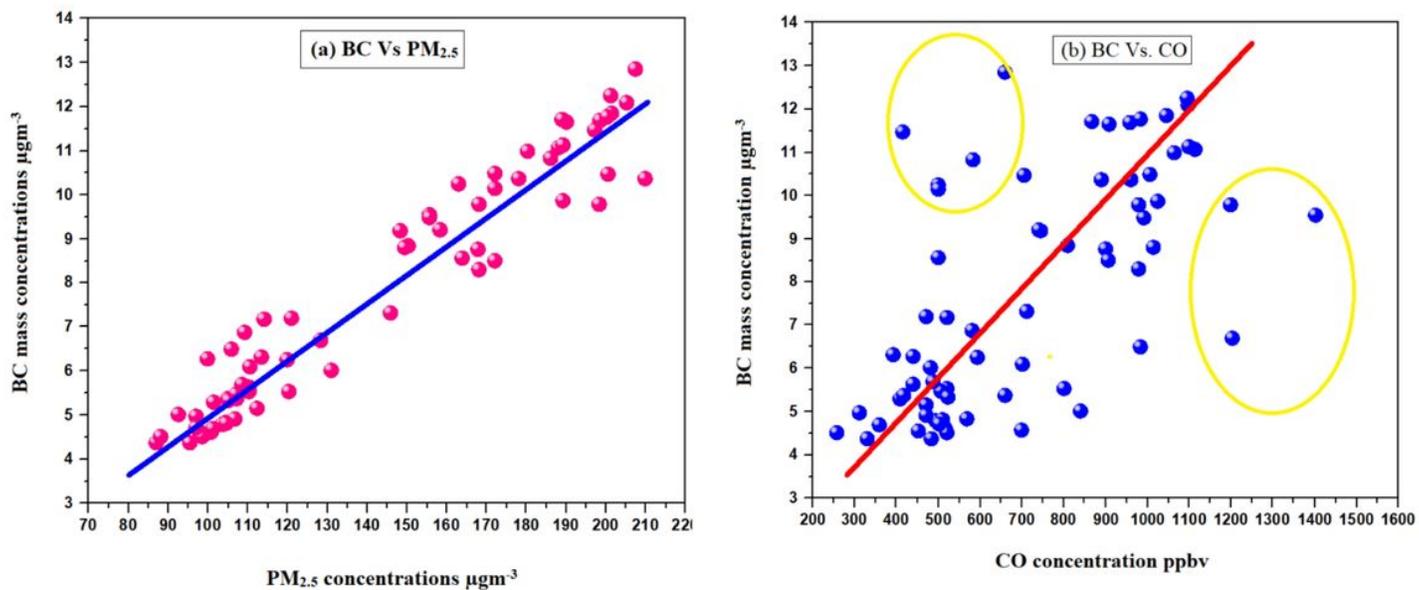
**Figure 5**

7-days air mass back-trajectories at two different cities of East India (a) JSR city (b) KGP city, at altitude level of 500m above ground level, over sampling side. Note: The designations employed and the presentation of the material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of Research Square concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. This map has been provided by the authors.



**Figure 6**

Fractional contribution of BC measured at BC370 (370 nm) and BC880 (880 nm) at two different cities (a) JSR city, and (b) KGP city of East India.



**Figure 7**

Scatterplot of (a) the BC-PM<sub>2.5</sub> correlations and (b) the BC-CO correlation during study period at two different cities of East India.