

AIR QUALITY HAZARDOUS IN DELHI

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Air pollution needs no introduction in 2021. Air pollution in India is estimated to kill around 1.5 million people every year. India is one of the world's highest death rates from chronic respiratory and asthma diseases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). In Delhi, poor quality air irreversibly damages the lungs of 2 million, around 45 percent of all children. There are a few factors that have spiked pollution in Delhi, such as factories, construction, vehicles, cracker burning, stubble burning, dust pollution, vehicular emissions, burning of waste and landfills.

There are several Air Qualities checking apps that you can use to know the status in your city. Air quality is measured by taking into account a number of factors that come together on a uniform scale that helps citizens make sense of data. AQI is the number used by government agencies to assess and communicate air pollution to the public. A higher AQI indicates unfavorable health effects for a huge proportion of the population.

After Diwali, the city's Air Quality Index (AQI) turned "hazardous" in the national capital as it touched 500. Following this, the Delhi government also banned 92 construction sites in the national capital for violating dust norms. Air quality in Delhi continues to be in the 'very poor category with a higher AQI, according to the System of Air Quality Weather Forecasting Research (SAFAR). The National Capital's air quality had slipped to the "severe" category in the first week of November, with stubble burning accounting for 27 percent of its PM2.5 pollution.

Air pollution is prevalent throughout the year. In fact, Delhi didn't have a single day of good air quality during summer in the last year. However, the pollution level, especially in North Indian states, increases post-Diwali as a result

of atmospheric conditions and human factors.

Winter inversion, valley effect in addition to industrial emissions, vehicular emissions are some of the reasons for the increasing amount of air pollution in winter. During summer, the lowest layer of the atmosphere is warmer and lighter than compared to winter, which makes it easy for air to rise upwards. As a result, the pollutants are carried away from the ground. However, during winter, the air near the atmosphere of the earth is dense and cooler. The increase in pollution levels was large post-Diwali as a result of the bursting of crackers on the occasion of Diwali and stubble burning in the neighboring states. To combat the situation in the region, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) proposed measures like the implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). Water-sprinkling will be accelerated as 400 tankers are set to make rounds across Delhi to reduce pollution. But these all are temporary solutions. Not just the government, but the important measures, must be adopted by every individual to contribute towards the prevention of air pollution. For a long-term solution, government and people together need to focus on fixing problems related to air pollution.