

Toxic air

Air quality in India is measured using an index that takes into account key pollutants. India employs a different methodology than Singapore and the US to determine hazardous air because its level of harmful pollutants is far higher.

INDIA'S AIR QUALITY INDEX (AQI) IS BASED ON 8 KEY POLLUTANTS

- 1 PM10
- 2 PM2.5 – fine particulate matter, directly harms health
- 3 Sulphur dioxide (SO2)
- 4 Nitrous dioxide (NO2)
- 5 Ozone (O3)
- 6 Carbon monoxide (CO)
- 7 Ammonia (NH3)
- 8 Lead (Pb)

200 real-time air quality monitors are installed across India

37 in Delhi

SINGAPORE'S PSI IS BASED ON 6 KEY POLLUTANTS

- 1 PM10
- 2 PM2.5
- 3 Sulphur dioxide (SO2)
- 4 Nitrous dioxide (NO2)
- 5 Ozone (O3)
- 6 Carbon monoxide (CO)

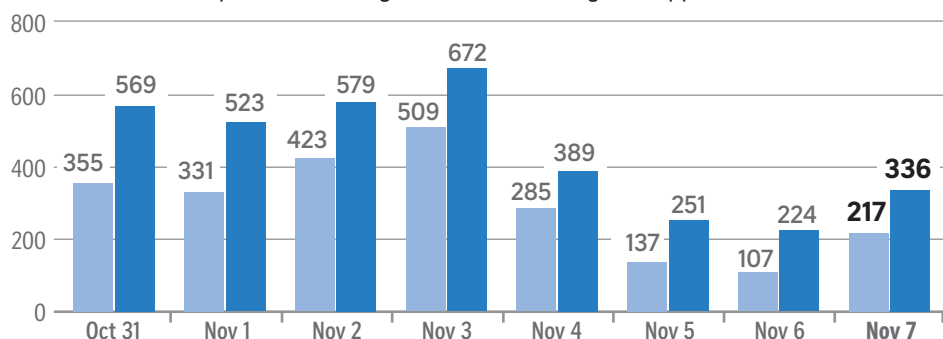
THE US EPA SCALE INCLUDES ONLY 5 POLLUTANTS

Some global websites like the Beijing-based World Air Quality Index use the US EPA scale

PARTICULATE MATTER CONCERNS

PM2.5 Particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter, travels deeper into the lungs

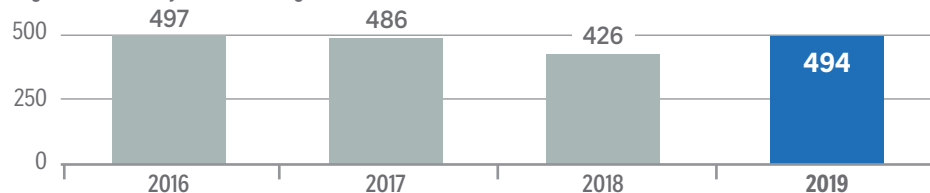
PM10 Particulate matter less than 10 micrometres in diameter, gets trapped in mucus



NOTE: The improvements on Nov 5 and 6 are due to favourable wind and weather conditions and Delhi's emergency response.

PERENNIAL PROBLEM

Highest Air Quality Index reading



WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN

India's AQI

AQI Range	Category	Health Impact
0-50	Good	Minimal impact on health
51-100	Satisfactory	Minor breathing discomfort for sensitive people
101-200	Moderate	Breathing discomfort for children, elderly
201-300	Poor	Prolonged exposure unhealthy
301-400	Very Poor	May cause respiratory difficulty for people with lung and heart disease
401-500	Severe	May cause respiratory difficulty even for healthy people. Health impacts from even light physical activity
>500	Severe +	Hazardous for all

Singapore's PSI

PSI Range	Category	Health Impact
0-50	Good	Normal activities
51-100	Moderate	Normal activities
101-200	Unhealthy	Reduce prolonged or strenuous outdoor physical exertion
201-300	Very Unhealthy	Avoid prolonged or strenuous outdoor physical exertion
>300	Hazardous	Minimise outdoor activity

US EPA

Any AQI value **beyond 300** is hazardous