

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

2023 - Air Quality Perspective in Delhi

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), since its inception in 2021, through a series of firm steps, has initiated various policy measures and field actions towards abatement of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Continual and concerted efforts of all the stakeholders round the year also in 2023 have further helped to improve the general air quality parameters in Delhi as compared to the past few years (barring the periods of very low anthropogenic, industrial and commercial activities during the Covid affected year 2020, owing to complete lockdowns and other restrictions), pursuant to various preventive and mitigative field actions through numerous statutory directions and orders of the Commission, covering all major sectors contributing to the overall air quality.

Comparative air quality related parameters for the years starting 2018 onwards follow as tabulated under:

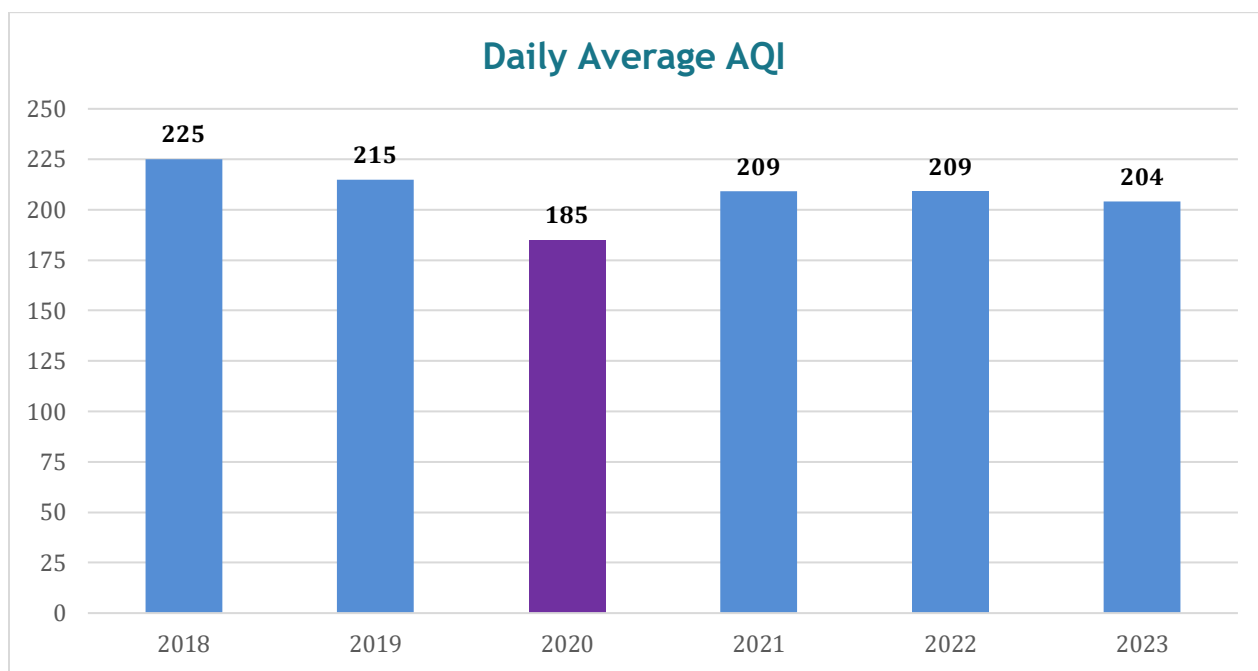
Month-wise Daily Avg. AQI for Delhi

Month	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	328	328	286	324	279	311
February	243	242	241	288	225	237
March	203	184	128	223	217	170
April	222	211	110	202	255	179
May	217	221	144	144	212	171
June	202	189	123	147	190	130
July	104	134	84	110	87	84
August	111	86	64	107	93	116
September	112	98	116	78	104	108
October	269	234	266	173	210	219
November	335	312	328	377	320	373
December	360	337	332	336	319	348

Barring 2020, the year 2023 witnessed 4 months (March, April, June and July) with **best ever** daily average AQI and 3 months (January, February and May) with **second best** daily average AQI during the entire period from 2018 to 2023.

Daily Avg. AQI for Delhi during the entire year

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Daily Avg. AQI	225	215	185	209	209	204



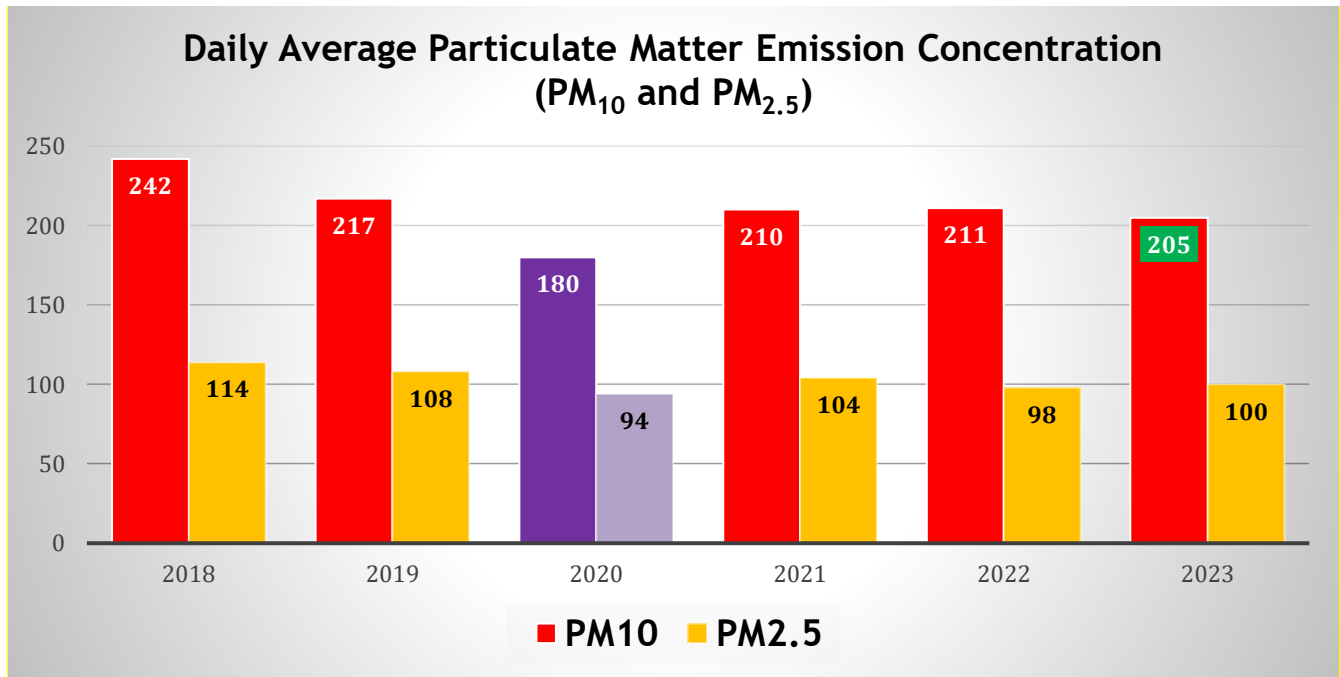
The average daily AQI for Delhi during the entire year 2023 has been the best so far since 2018 and even before that, barring 2020, which saw an exceptional AQI owing to continued spells of lockdown and low anthropogenic activities round the year.

Comparative PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} Concentrations

As per IMD data, comparative daily average Particulate Matter emission concentration (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) values in Delhi read as under:

Year	Daily avg. PM ₁₀ (µgm/m ³)	Daily avg. PM _{2.5} (µgm/m ³)
2018	242	114
2019	217	108
2020*	180	94
2021	210	104
2022	211	98
2023	205	100

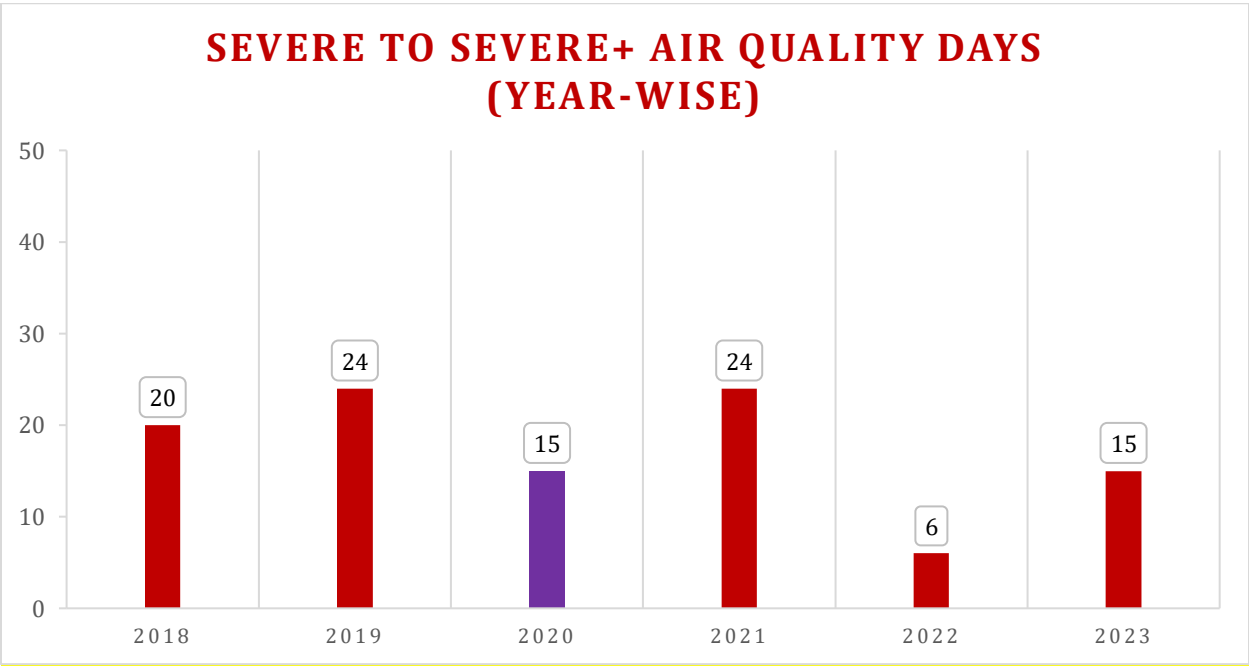
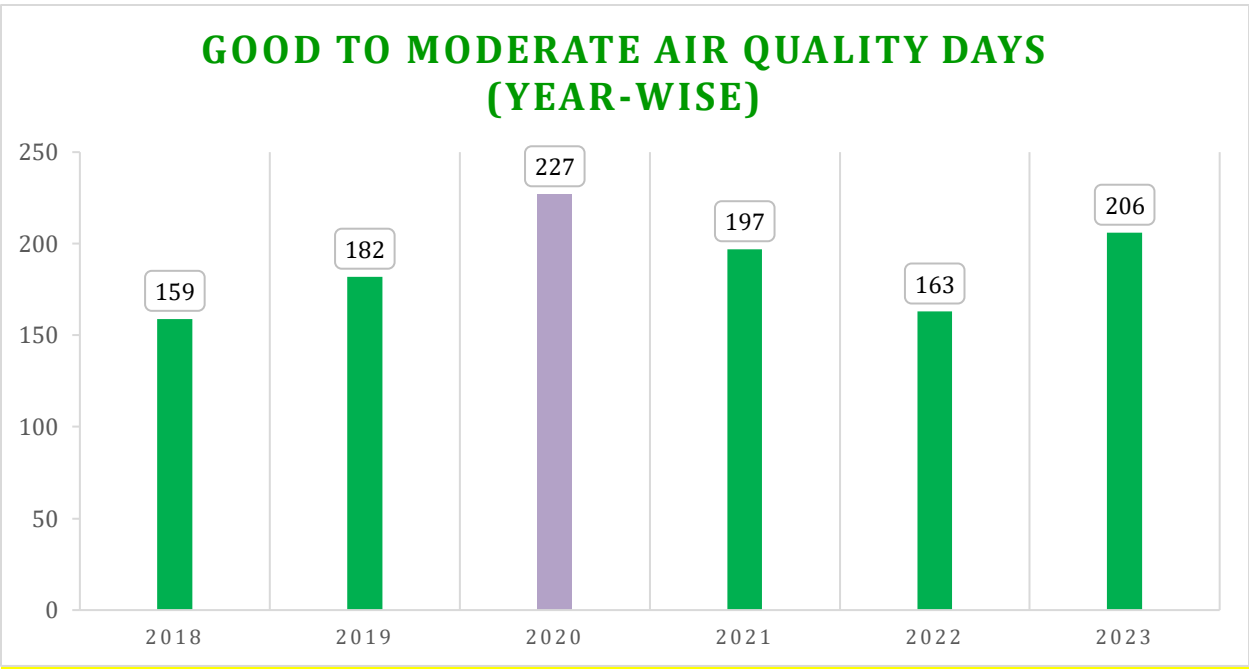
* Covid Year



The Year 2023 has thus witnessed the lowest ever recorded daily average values for PM₁₀ and the second best PM_{2.5} concentrations, barring the Covid affected 2020 with lowest anthropogenic activities.

Comparative AQI Category status for Delhi

AQI Category	No. of Days											
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Good (0-50)	0	2	5	1	3	1	159	182	227	197	163	206
Satisfactory (51-100)	53	59	95	72	65	60						
Moderate (101-200)	106	121	127	124	95	145						
Poor (201-300)	114	103	75	80	130	77	186	159	124	144	196	144
Very Poor (201-300)	72	56	49	64	66	67						
Severe (401-450)	20	19	13	20	6	13	20	24	15	24	6	15
Severe + >450	0	5	2	4	0	2						



As per the CPCB criteria for the air quality category based on gradation of the daily average AQI, the year 2023 witnessed the best ever “Good to Moderate” AQI days , registering a mark of more than 200 days (barring Covid affected 2020).

The number of days with Severe - Severe + AQI were 15 during 2023, which is also the second-best figure for the period between 2018 - 2023.

Comparative Delhi AQI around Diwali Festival

Year	Pre-Diwali Day	Diwali Day	Post-Diwali Day
2018	338	281	390
2019	287	337	368
2020	339	414	435
2021	314	382	462
2022	259	312	302
2023	220	218	358

The above tabulation indicates best ever AQI in Delhi around the Diwali festival in 2023.

The year 2023 also witnessed much lower levels of episodic events like farm burnings during paddy harvesting season, bursting of crackers during religious festivals and marriages/celebrations etc. However, the benefit attributable to the same in Delhi's AQI, was nullified owing to much adverse climatic, meteorological, low temperature and calm wind conditions in the region, impeding effective dispersion of the pollutants and resulting in a spike in the daily average AQI during the winter months in particular. Despite these factors, the overall daily average AQI during the year has been the best so far.

With persistent field level efforts and targeted policy initiatives for quantified results in the short/ medium/ long term, it is expected that air quality scenario over Delhi will see further gradual but marked improvement, year on year.
