

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan,
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

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PRESS RELEASE ON AIR QUALITY IN DELHI (JANUARY - OCTOBER, 2025)

- The improving trend in the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR continues and for the period between January - October during the current year, Delhi registers its best ever average AQI (Air Quality Index) during the 8 years i.e., from 2018 to 2025 (barring 2020 - the year of lockdown due to Covid);
- The average AQI of Delhi for the period January - October during the current year has been recorded as 170 as against 184 in 2024, 172 in 2023, 187 in 2022, 179 in 2021, 156 in 2020, 192 in 2019 and 201 in 2018 respectively, during the corresponding period;
- From September to October, Delhi-NCR shifts from monsoon-influenced winds that are relatively stronger and carry humid air to a post-monsoon regime where winds become weaker and the air turns drier and more stable. These meteorological conditions reduce pollutant dispersion and often lead to an increase in air pollution levels;
- This period (January - October) in 2025 did not witness even a single day with average AQI more than 400 ('Severe' or 'Severe+' categories). There were 03, 03, 01, 06, 02, 09 and 07 such days during the years 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, and 2018, respectively. Moreover, this period also witnessed highest number of 'Satisfactory' days i.e. 79 such days (barring 2020 - the year of lockdown due to Covid), as against 66 days in 2024, 60 days in 2023, 65 days in 2022, 72 days in 2021, 95 days in 2020, 58 days in 2019, and 53 days in 2018;
- The period from January - October (upto 29th October) has seen the lowest levels of PM_{2.5} concentration in Delhi compared to the corresponding period since 2018 (barring 2020 - the year of lockdown due to Covid); Delhi has witnessed PM_{2.5} average of 72 µg/m³ in the current year as against 83 in 2024, 76 in 2023, 81 in 2022, 82 in 2021, 71 in 2020, 88 in 2019 and 93 in 2018 respectively;
- Likewise, the period January - October (upto 29th October) also witnessed the lowest levels of PM₁₀ concentration in Delhi compared to the corresponding period since 2018 (barring 2020 - the year of lockdown due to Covid), recording an

average of 166 µg/m³ in the current year as against 186 in 2024, 174 in 2023, 191 in 2022, 182 in 2021, 147 in 2020, 197 in 2019 and 216 in 2018;

- CAQM is working closely with various stakeholders to take effective measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and to improve the air quality in Delhi-NCR and efforts would be intensified with an endeavour to further improve upon the air quality scenario in Delhi-NCR in the coming days.
