



World Air Quality Report 2019

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Why in News

fifth most polluted country in 2019 World Air Quality Report 2019 India was the and accounts for almost two-thirds of the world's most polluted cities according to the .

- **pollution tracker IQAir and Greenpeace** The report was released by the .
- **comparison of PM 2.5 levels** The ranking is based on a .

PM 2.5

- **atmospheric particulate matter diameter of fewer than 2.5 micrometres**, It is an of which is around 3% the diameter of a human hair.
- **causes respiratory problems** It and also reduces visibility. It is an endocrine disruptor that can affect insulin secretion and insulin sensitivity, thus contributing to diabetes.
- It is very small and can only be detected with the help of an electron microscope.

MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN 2019

Rank	City	PM2.5 (micrograms/cu. m)
1	Ghaziabad (India)	110.2
2	Hotan (China)	110.1
3	Gujranwala (Pak)	105.3
4	Faisalabad (Pak)	104.6
5	Delhi (India)	98.6
6	Noida (India)	97.7
7	Gurgaon (India)	93.1
8	Raiwind (Pak)	92.2
9	Greater Noida (India)	91.3
10	Bandhwari (India)	90.5

Key Points

- **Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country** Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan and India for PM 2.5 exposure followed by .
- **21 of the 30 most polluted cities** India Ghaziabad world's most polluted. in the world are located in with in the National Capital Region ranked the
- **World Health Organisation (WHO) target for annual PM 2.5 exposure by 500% should be 10 micrograms/cubic metre** For example, Mumbai's annual PM 2.5 concentration is 45.3 micrograms/cubic metre, when it according to the WHO. Indian cities, on average, exceed the .
- **national air pollution decreased by 20%**
 - **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) by a maximum of 30% by 2024** India launched a in 2019 that commits to reducing air pollution in 102 most polluted cities .
 - **Economic Survey 2019-20** According to the , the economic growth rate in India is expected to slow down to 5% in 2019-20 from 6.1% in 2018-19 and 7% in 2017-18.

The report, however, noted that the reduction in pollution in 2019 couldn't be attributed to the NCAP but to the slowing of the marketplace.

However, from 2018 to 2019, with 98% of cities experiencing improvements.

- **elevated air pollution levels result of climate change events, sandstorms, wildfires and pollution gains from the rapid urbanization**

While some achievements have been made in air quality monitoring infrastructure globally, there are still huge gaps in access to data around the world.

The Report highlights as a such as of cities in regions such as Southeast Asia.

- **State Of Global Air Report Boston-based Health Effects Institute (HEI)** It is to be noted that the World Air Quality Report is different from the which is produced by the

Source: TH