



Haryana Cities Among India's Most Polluted

Why in News?

According to a report by the [Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air \(CREA\)](#), **Haryana accounted for more than half of India's top 10 most polluted cities** in June 2024.

Key Points

- **Rohtak was the most polluted** among the 251 Indian cities included in the study.
 - In June, Rohtak's average concentration of [PM2.5 \(tiny inhalable particles\)](#) was $116\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, **more than twice the safe level** of $60\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ set in India.
- In the top 10 most polluted cities in June, Rohtak was featured in the list 28 times, followed by **Charkhi Dadri and Panchkula**, each appearing 16 times, **Ballabhgarh** 11 times, and **Faridabad** 10 times.
- A total of 60 cities appeared on the daily most polluted cities list. Among these, 23 cities made the list at least five times. **Only Faridabad is part of the [National Clean Air Programme \(NCAP\)](#).**
- According to the **2021 Air Quality Life Index (AQLI)** report by the University of Chicago, **India is the world's second most polluted country**, where fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) shortens the average citizen's life expectancy by 5.3 years.

Particulate Matter

- Also called **particle pollution**, a term for **a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air**. It **causes respiratory problems and also reduces visibility**.
- **It includes:**
 - **PM10:** inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.
 - **PM2.5:** fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.
- **Sources of PM:**
 - Some are emitted directly from a source, such as **construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, smokestacks or fires**.

National Clean Air Programme

- It was **launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** in January 2019.
- It is the **first-ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management** with a time-bound reduction target.
- It **seeks to cut the concentration of coarse** (particulate matter (PM) of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM10) **and fine particles** (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or [PM2.5](#)) by at least 20% **in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison**.
- It **covers 132 non-attainment cities** which were identified by the [Central Pollution Control Board \(CPCB\)](#).

