THE DAILY ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD OF DELHI'S AIR

263

AQI at Jahangirpuri, 24 hours to 4 PM, 31 October 2026, the worst monitor in Delhi today, Poor on CPCB's documented formula, and PM2.5 set that figure. 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it.

Today, 31 October 2026, 24 hours to 4 PM: Delhi's AQI was 121.6, Moderate, calculated with CPCB's documented formula as the mean of 58 stations' AQIs (CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" and its AQI Calculator; page 25 sets out the formula). As measured, 43 of the 44 monitors reading PM2.5 were above the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³. Above AQI 200 today: 4 stations, Jahangirpuri 263, Punjabi Bagh 230, Rohini 216, Mundka 215. Poor or worse air reached 52.8 lakh people within 4 km of their monitor today, 23.3 per cent of Delhi.

The year so far, 1 January to 30 October: the cleaner days of 2026 have been the dirtiest for these dates since 2019, because three days in four read above 107.3 on the particle AQI, against 93.4 on the same dates of 2025. The middle day reads 155.2 against 143.5 on the same dates last year. On an average day, 27.2 per cent of Delhi's reporting monitors, about 12 of 44, sat above 200 on the particle AQI.

121.6

TODAY

Delhi's AQI calculated with CPCB's documented formula, the mean of 58 stations.

52.8 lakh

NEAR POOR OR WORSE

Within 4 km of 4 Poor-or-worse monitors: 23.3 per cent of Delhi, every pollutant counted.

4.1x

THE WHO 24-HOUR LINE

Delhi's PM2.5 today, as measured, against the WHO 24-hour guideline.

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026 (CREA compilation); 2025 electoral shares; official 1 July 2026 Delhi NCT projection; WorldPop 2026 grid; CREA's compilation of CPCB data since 2019; WHO guidelines, 2021.

The air record

31 October 2026 · Delhi, as measured, on CPCB's data and its documented formula

Published by Shri Ajay Maken, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

The negatives, the demands, the danger

FOR THE RECORD, 31 OCTOBER 2026, 24 HOURS TO 4 PM. Jahangirpuri read 263, Poor, set by PM2.5; 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. The monitors gave Delhi 121.6, calculated with CPCB's documented formula (CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" and its AQI Calculator; page 25).

What this record finds today

- Three of every four days of 2026 so far read above 107.3 on the particle AQI, the highest that line has stood for 1 January to 30 October since 2019, when it was 111.1; the middle day rose from 143.5 to 155.2.
- Jahangirpuri read 263, Poor, set by PM2.5, while the city average read Moderate, and 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. An average is not an experience.
- PM2.5 averaged 61.9 µg/m³ over the 24 hours to 4 PM as measured, 4.1 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³; 43 of the 44 monitors with a PM2.5 figure sat above that guideline.

What we ask of the Government

- Fix the worst stations daily; a city average must never bury a neighbourhood.
- Keep the full monitoring network up: every gas channel, every hour; a meter that cannot measure is not a clean-air policy. On 31 October, 12 of the 58 monitors that reported gave no reading for at least one of the six pollutants.

The health hazard

- Today's category, Moderate, in CPCB's own words, Table 3.12 of its National AQI report: "May cause breathing discomfort to the people with lung disease such as asthma and discomfort to people with heart disease, children and older adults"
- WHO's 2021 guidelines say the evidence points to no level of PM2.5 below which harm stops, and that even the annual guideline of 5 µg/m³ is not a level of no effect.
- The fine particles pass from the lungs into the blood; the burden falls first on children, the elderly, and those who work outdoors and cannot choose their air.

Shri Ajay Maken
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026 (CREA compilation); 2025 electoral shares; official 1 July 2026 Delhi NCT projection; WorldPop 2026 grid; CREA's compilation of CPCB data since 2019; WHO guidelines, 2021; CPCB National AQI report, Table 3.12.

What this record holds, page by page

CONTENTS

Part A. The day against the WHO PM2.5 and PM10 against the WHO 24-hour guideline, and every pollutant

05	PM2.5 against the WHO	the 24-hour guideline
06	PM10 against the WHO	the 24-hour guideline
07	The pollutant board	all tracked species, with how each is used

Part B. Observed: what the monitors said

08	The day at the stations	the spread the average hides
09	The 30-day path	the index, day by day
10	Against yesterday	the one-day move
12	The worst station	one neighbourhood's day
13	The year so far	the distribution a count and a mean both hide
14	The city over the line	the share of monitors above 200, by year

Part C. People, reference and method reach, the full tables, and how it is all made

15	Who the network reaches	coverage at 500 m, 2 km and 4 km
16	Where the people are	the grid, and the Voronoi method in full
17	What each monitor speaks for	people within 4 km, and today's exposure
18	Population method and definitions	grid, electoral anchor, weights, circles, Reach and Avg
19	Every station	the full network table
20	Every station, contd.	the full network table
21	Every station, contd.	the full network table
22	The published context	what pollutes it, what delay costs, and the year
23	The method	plain English, on two pages
25	How this record calculates the AQI	CPCB's documented formula, with CPCB's links
26	Sources	every source, dated

One fact per page, provable at a glance

Four ways in, depending on the minute you are in



01 Part A. Against the WHO

The summary, then PM2.5 and PM10 against the WHO 24-hour guideline, and every pollutant.

Pages 01, 02, then 05 onward.

02 Part B. Observed

What the monitors said: the stations, the 30 days, last year, the year so far.

Pages 08 onward.

03 Part C. People, reference, method

Who the network reaches, the full tables, and how every number is made.

Pages 15 onward.

What a residual is. One day's level minus the same days of last year. Above zero means worse than last year. It is a difference, never a level.

What the margin is. The band inside which a figure is too close to call. Where a change sits inside its margin, this record says so and rests no claim on it.

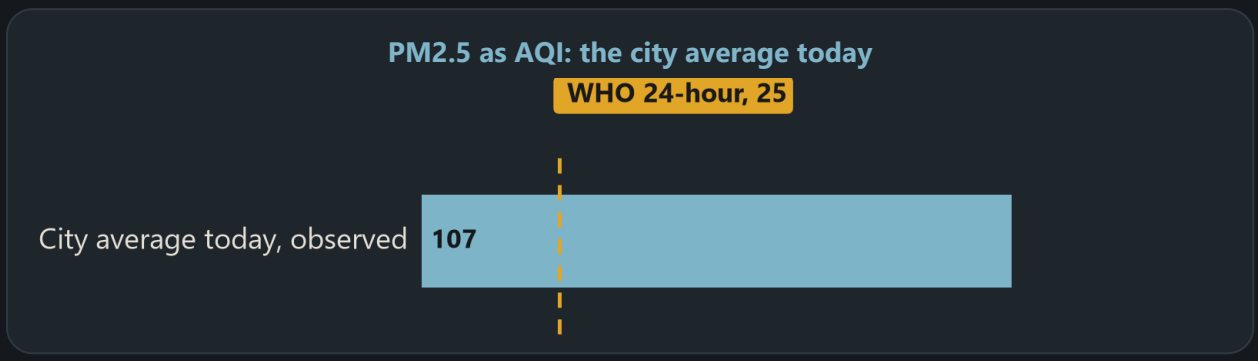
The tab
It names the data and the exact window.

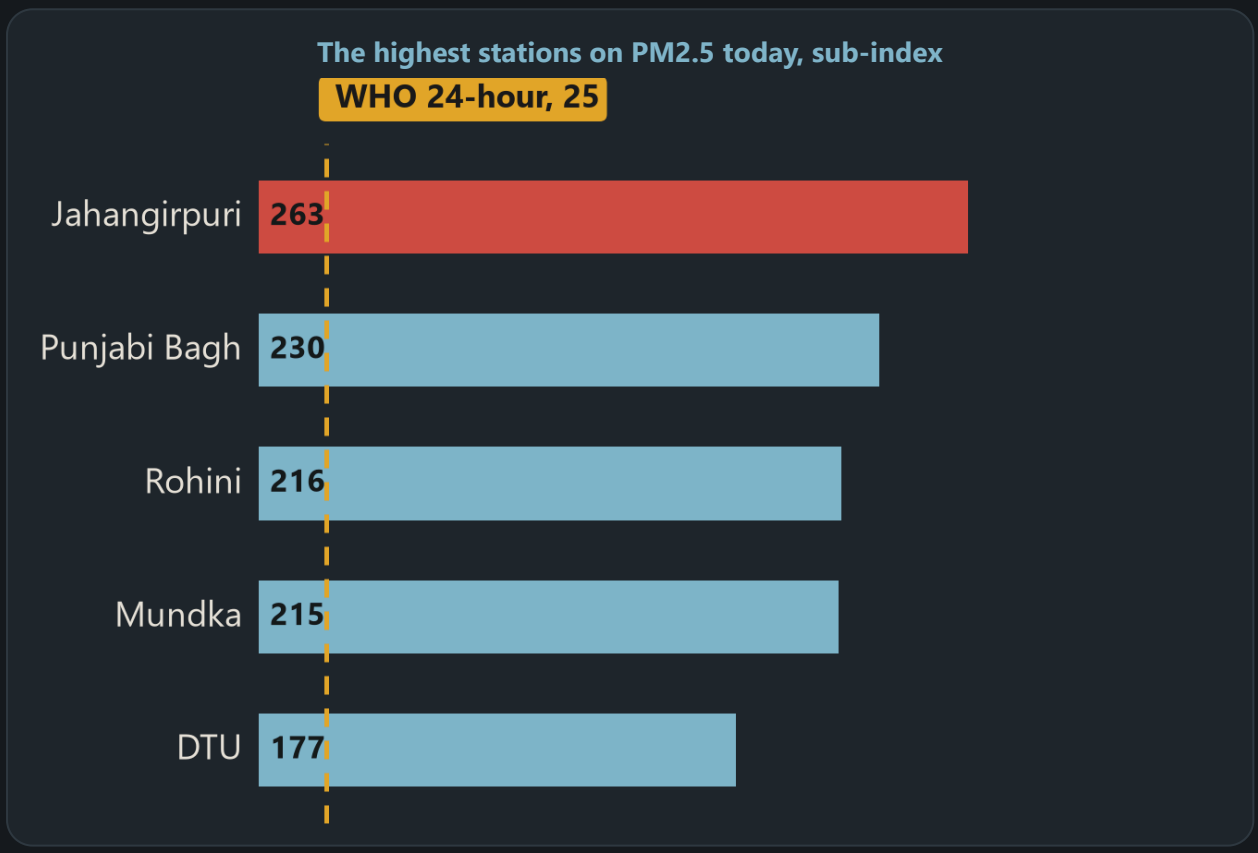
The banner
It states the finding, ready to be read out.

The three zones
Reading, caution and a dated source under every chart.

The point
The dark band restates the page's sharpest fact.

PM2.5 against the WHO 24-hour guideline





READING Reading: every bar is a CPCB sub-index for PM2.5, the conversion of µg/m³ onto CPCB's index scale through CPCB's published breakpoints. The dashed line is the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³, which sits at sub-index 25 on the first, linear segment of that scale.

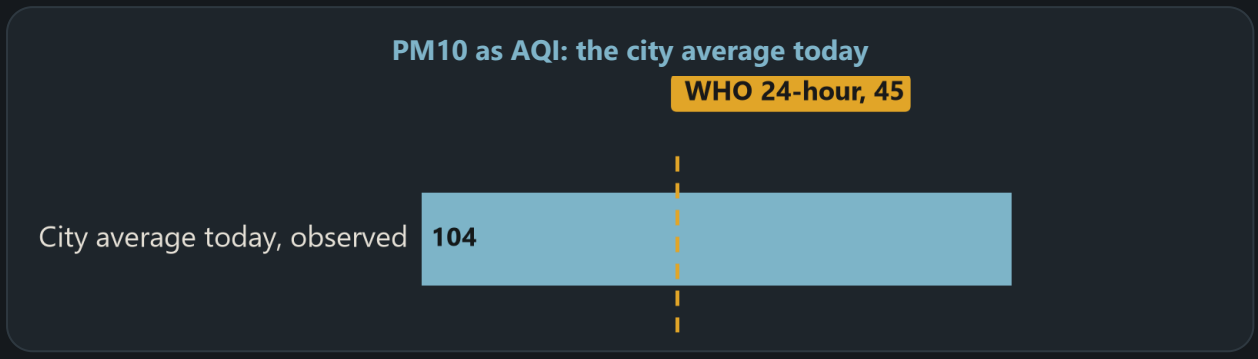
CAUTION Caution: every sub-index on this page is the observed one, on CPCB's documented formula, and one station's figure describes one neighbourhood.

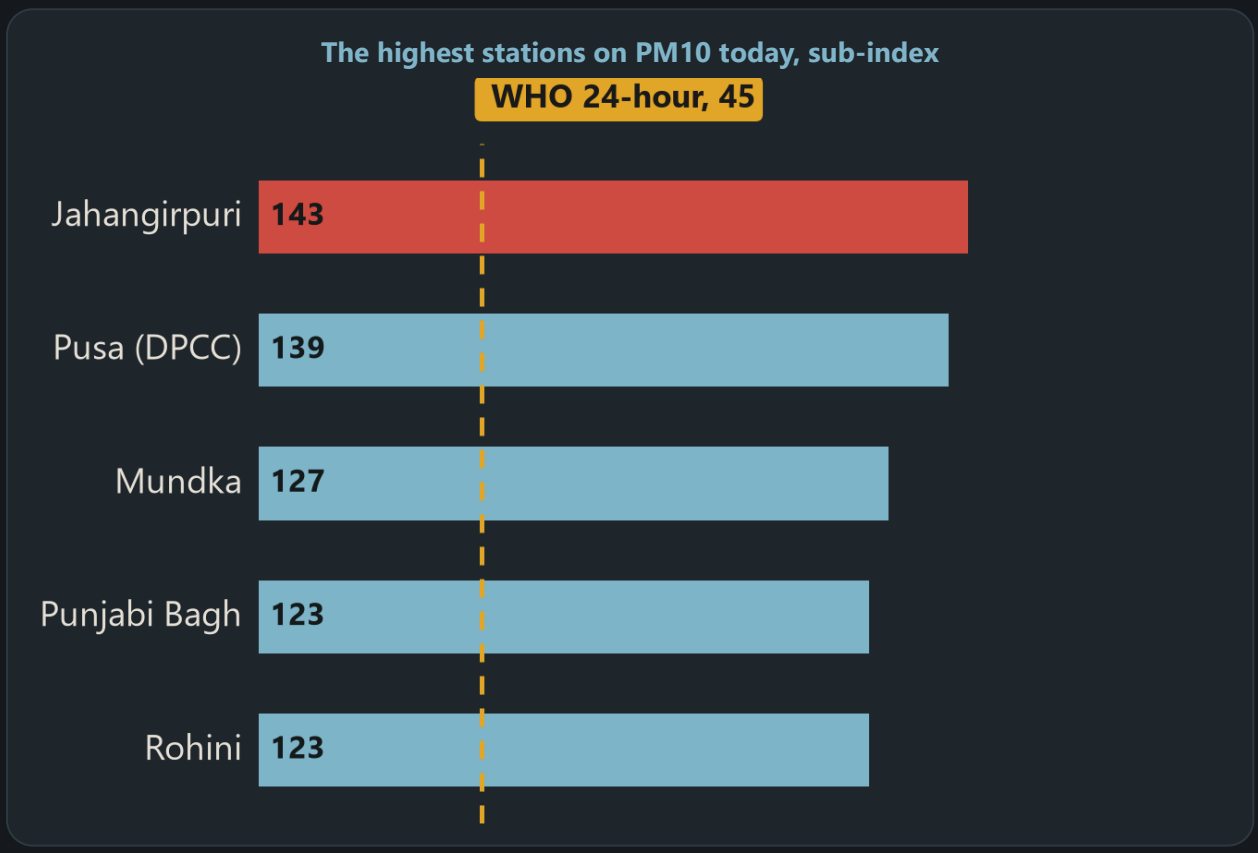
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Delhi's PM2.5 averaged 61.9 µg/m³ today, 4.1 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³, and Jahangirpuri averaged 109.3 µg/m³, 7.2 times it.

PM10 against the WHO 24-hour guideline





READING Reading: every bar is a CPCB sub-index for PM10, the conversion of µg/m³ onto CPCB's index scale through CPCB's published breakpoints. The dashed line is the WHO 24-hour guideline of 45 µg/m³, which sits at sub-index 45 on the first, linear segment of that scale.

CAUTION Caution: every sub-index on this page is the observed one, on CPCB's documented formula, and one station's figure describes one neighbourhood.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Delhi's PM10 averaged 104.5 µg/m³ today, 2.3 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 45 µg/m³, and Jahangirpuri averaged 166.7 µg/m³, 3.7 times it.

Every pollutant, as measured

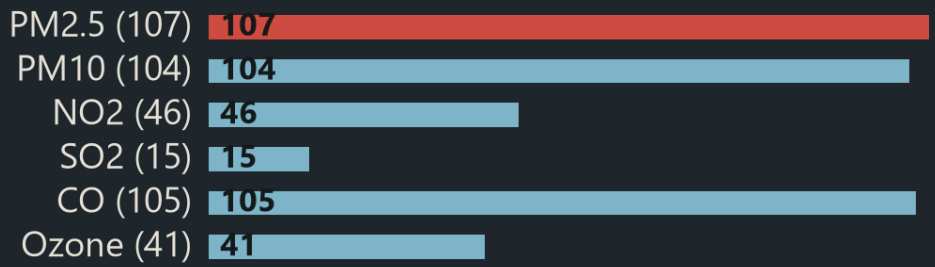
Pollutant	Today obs	Obs YoY	How this record uses it
PM2.5	61.9	-58.9%	Used for findings
PM10	104.5	-62.2%	Used for findings
NO2	36.7	-32.7%	Used for findings
NOx (ppb)	45	-22.1%	Shown for context, observed only
SO2	12.3	-10.5%	Shown for context, observed only
CO (mg/m³)	2.36	+14.8%	Shown for context, observed only
Ozone	40.5	-43.2%	Observed reading used.

43 of 44
PM2.5 above the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³, as measured.

44 of 44
PM10 above the WHO 24-hour guideline of 45 µg/m³, as measured.

2.3x
Delhi's PM10 as measured, against the same WHO 24-hour guideline.

Each pollutant's city sub-index today, as measured



READING

Reading: every pollutant this record tracks, as measured today and against the same days of last year. Concentrations are µg/m³, except carbon monoxide in mg/m³ and NOx, which the monitors report in ppb; one ppb of NO2 is 1.88 µg/m³. The bars draw each pollutant's city sub-index today on CPCB's scale, the red bar the highest.

CAUTION

The observed ozone reading is reported up to CPCB's Poor ceiling, AQI 300, and this year the monitors' ozone readings differ from their own of a year ago by more than any real change.

SOURCE

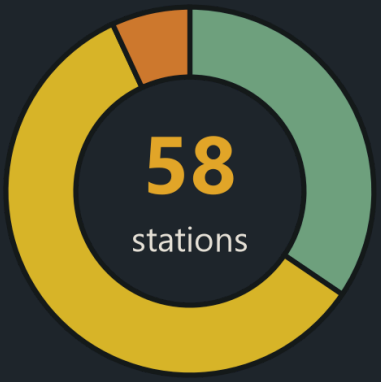
CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

As measured, 43 of the 44 stations with a PM2.5 figure sit above the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³.

One average, and the spread it hides

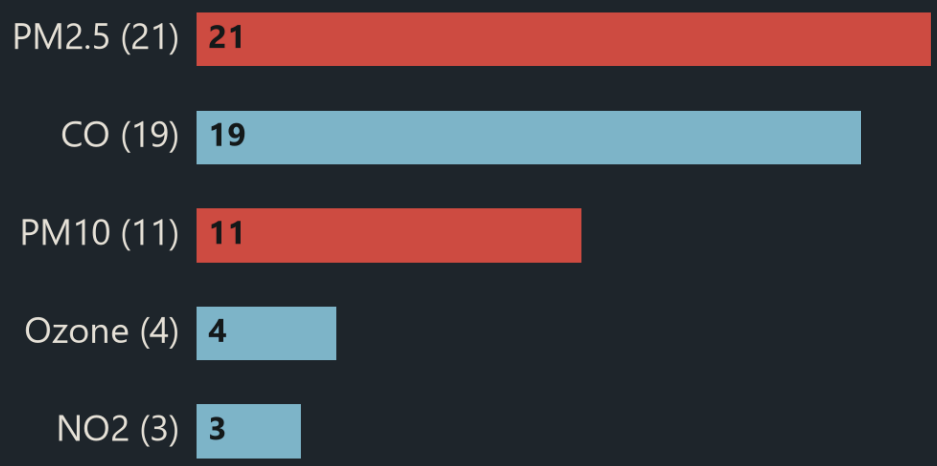
All 58 stations, by category



The same count, category by category



Which pollutant set each station's figure today



READING Reading: each station reports its own AQI; the wheel and the bars are the same 58 stations counted by category. The lower panel counts the same stations by the pollutant that set each one's figure. Zero counts are printed as zeros.

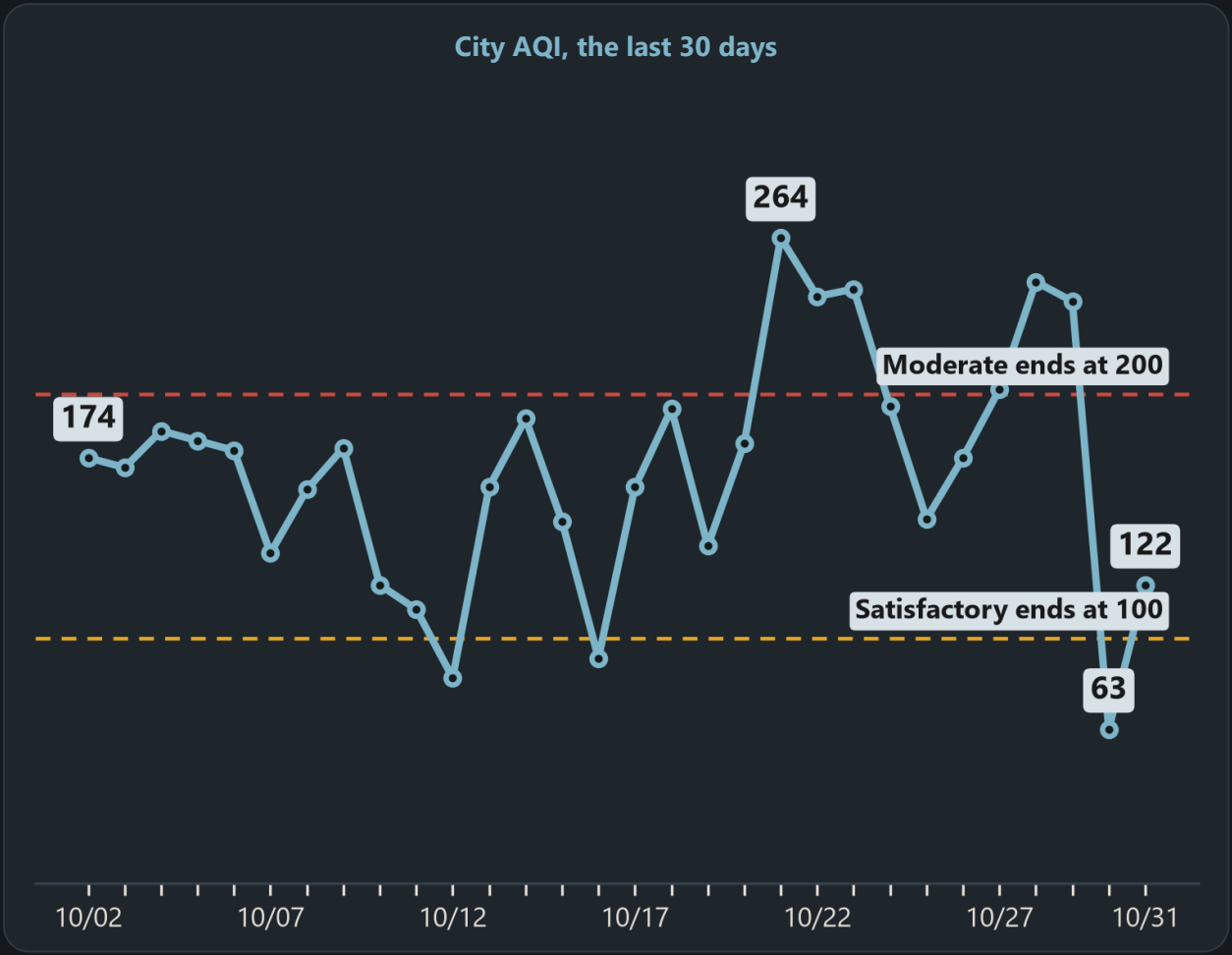
CAUTION Caution: the city headline is the mean of station AQIs, so one bad station can sit inside a Satisfactory average. A station's leading pollutant is the worst of its own sub-indices, not a ranking of how much of each was in the air.

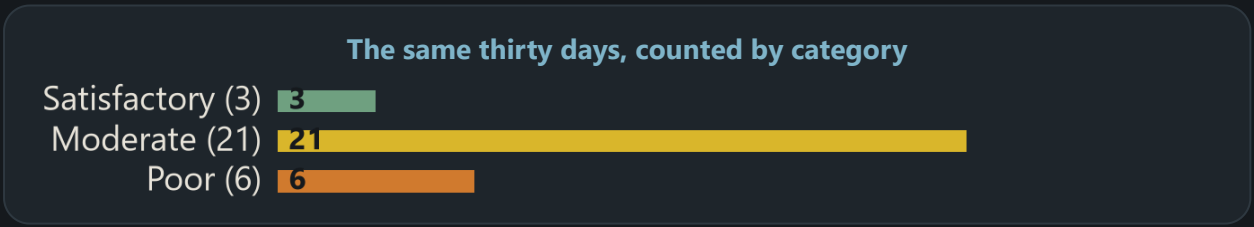
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Jahangirpuri read 263, Poor, set by PM2.5, on a day the city average read Moderate.

Thirty days of the index





READING Reading: the line is the city mean of station AQIs, one point per day. The dashed lines are the CPCB category boundaries. The lower panel counts the same thirty days by the category each one fell in.

CAUTION Caution: each day is the 24 hours ending 4 PM, and not the calendar day, so this line and a midnight series will differ.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Thirty days ago the city read 174, on 44 reporting stations, and today it reads 122, on 58; in between it stood as high as 264, on 21 October.

Against yesterday: the one-day move

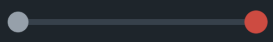
58.3

points on yesterday

From 64 to 122. On the 54 stations that reported on both days, the 95 per cent interval runs 47.5 to 70.4 points.

Yesterday to today

Yesterday (grey) to today (colour).



Which way each matched station moved since yesterday



READING Reading: the grey dot is yesterday, the coloured dot today; red marks a worsening. The lower panel splits the same matched stations by which way each one moved.

CAUTION

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

One day proves nothing on its own.

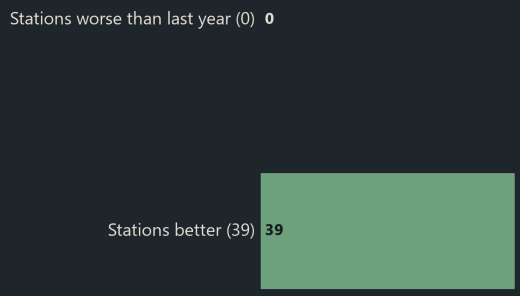
Against last year: the observed reading

−180.6

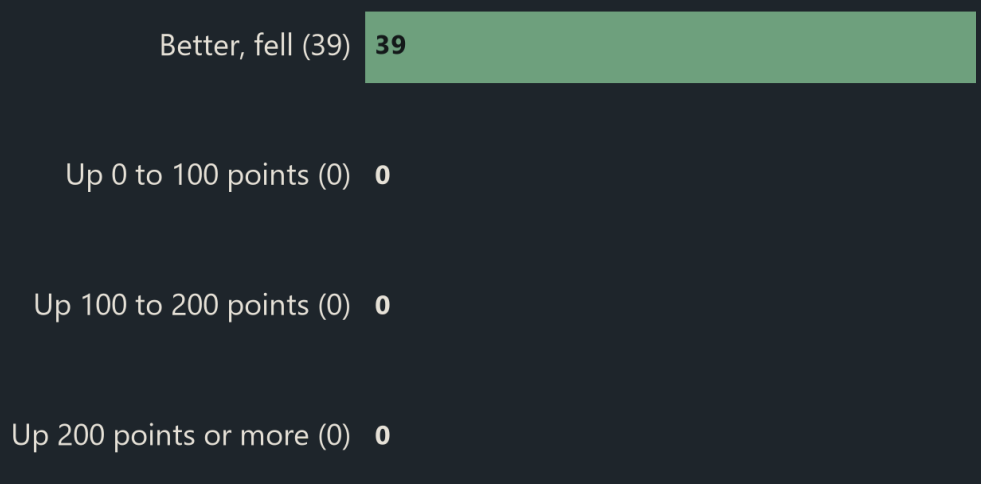
points on last year, observed

Today 122 across 58 stations. The year is judged on the 39 matched stations: 134 today against 315, the mean of the same date ±7 days of 2025 at those stations. The interval runs -193.4 to -166.9 points.

The station split behind the average



How the 39 matched stations moved vs last year, in AQI points



READING Reading: the observed year-on-year change, on the feed's own canonical figure. The lower panel sizes the moves behind that one number, station by station.

CAUTION Caution: All 39 read lower, by a median of 183.9 points, so the average hides both. Weighted by population, today reads 131 across the 54 stations with a mapped zone; on the 39 stations matched with last year it reads 143 against 321, a change of -177.5 points.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

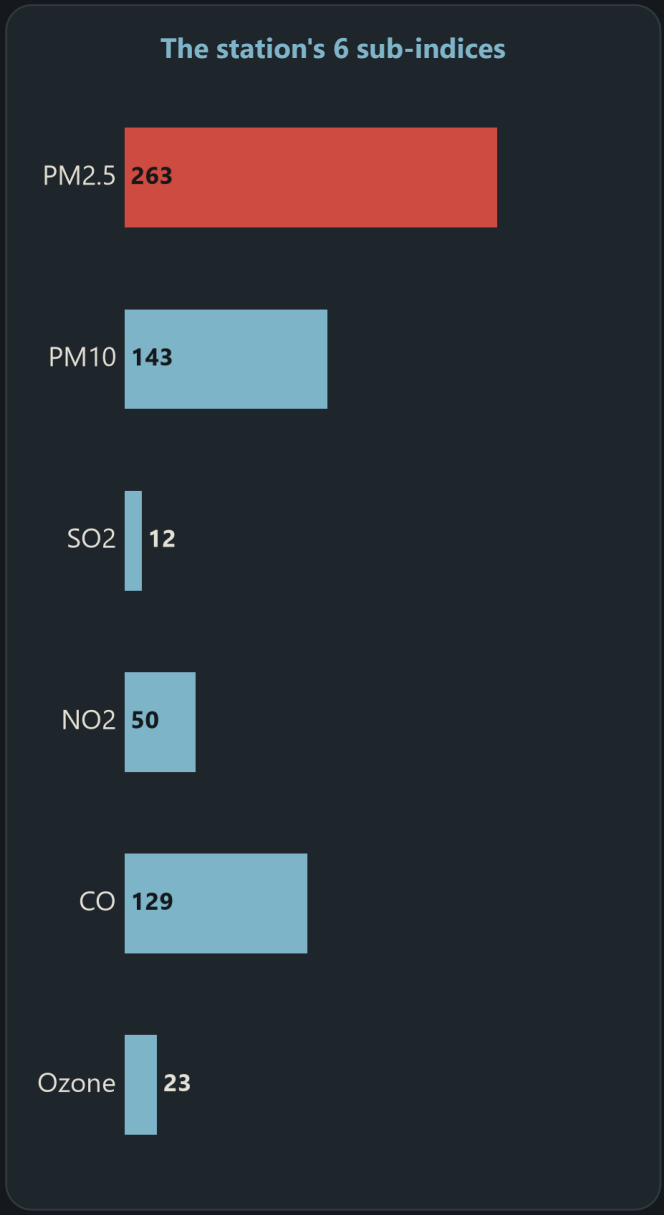
One city average stands for the whole of Delhi, while Jahangirpuri read 263, Poor; that station's day is on page 12.

The worst station in the city today

263

Jahangirpuri, Delhi (DPCC)

Poor, set by PM2.5. Its PM2.5 averaged 109.3 µg/m³ over the 24 hours to 4 PM, 7.2 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³. Last year this station read 354 on the mean of the same date ±7 days, so the change is -91.1 points. 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of this monitor. Within 500 m of the monitor, 92% of the land is built up and 7% is under vegetation, so this reading describes a densely built neighbourhood.



READING	Reading: a station's AQI is its worst pollutant's sub-index; the red bar set today's figure.
CAUTION	Caution: one station describes one neighbourhood. Its sub-indices are printed so that the reading can be checked, and the land around the monitor is stated below the figure because it decides how far the reading travels.
SOURCE	CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1]. Land cover from ESA WorldCover 2021 v200, 10 m, CC BY 4.0.

THE POINT

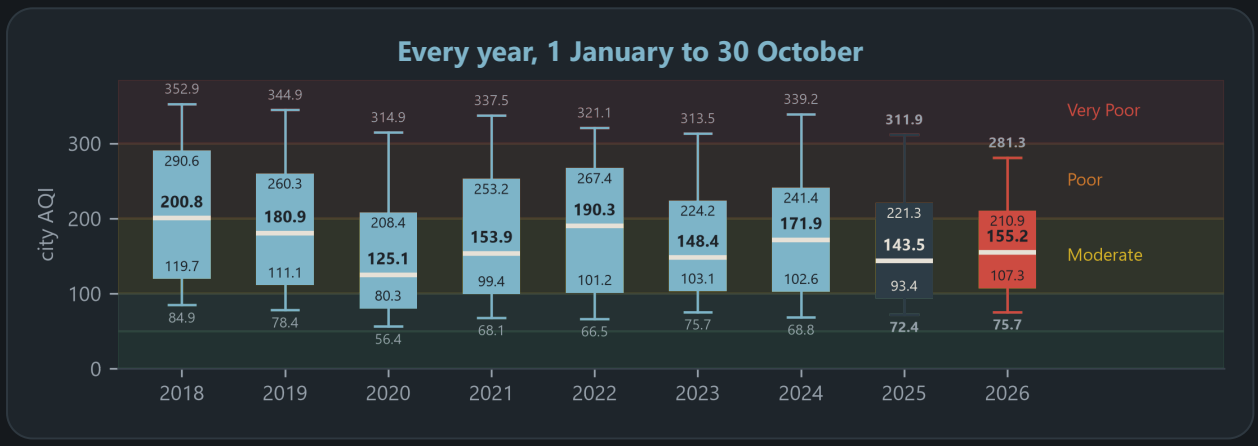
While the city averaged Moderate, Jahangirpuri sat at 263, Poor, and 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. An average is not an experience.

The year, from its best days to its worst

155.2

the middle day of 2026, against 143.5 in 2025

On the same 303 complete dates, 1 January to 30 October, the best tenth of days reads 75.7 against 72.4 and the worst tenth 281.3 against 311.9. The days at or below 200 went from 211 to 218.





READING Reading: the box holds the middle half of that year's days, the white rule inside it is the middle day, and the whiskers reach its best and worst tenth. The bands behind are the CPCB categories, so a year that improved would slide the whole box down through them.

CAUTION Caution: the whiskers are the tenth and ninetieth percentiles, not the extremes, so each year's worst days lie above them. These are the 303 complete dates present in every year. Neighbouring days resemble each other, so the margins are computed by resampling runs of 14 consecutive dates; on that test none of the six measures, from the best tenth to the worst, has moved outside its margin since last year.

SOURCE Computed from the CREA compilation of the CPCB hourly record, CPCB 2014 sub-index, calendar day, city figure the mean of station AQIs; PM basis, the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices [1].

THE POINT

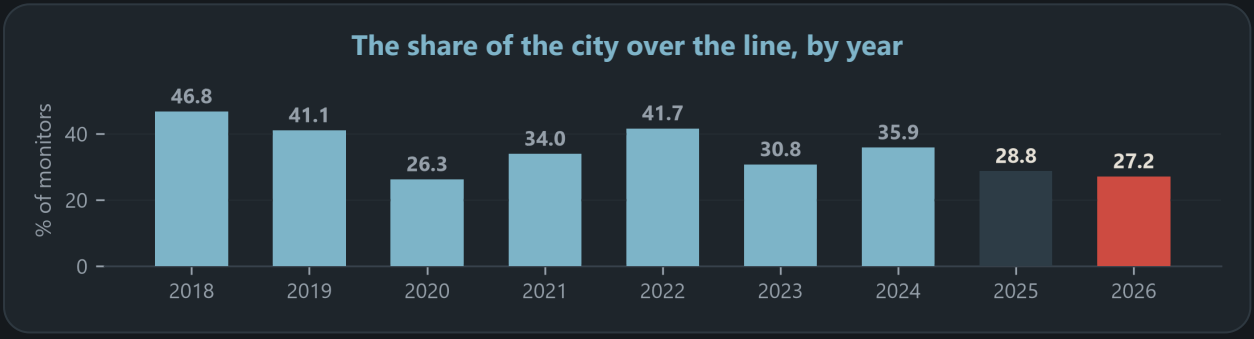
The cleaner days of 2026 have been the dirtiest for these dates since 2019: the lower quarter stands at 107.3, against 93.4 in 2025 and 111.1 in 2019.

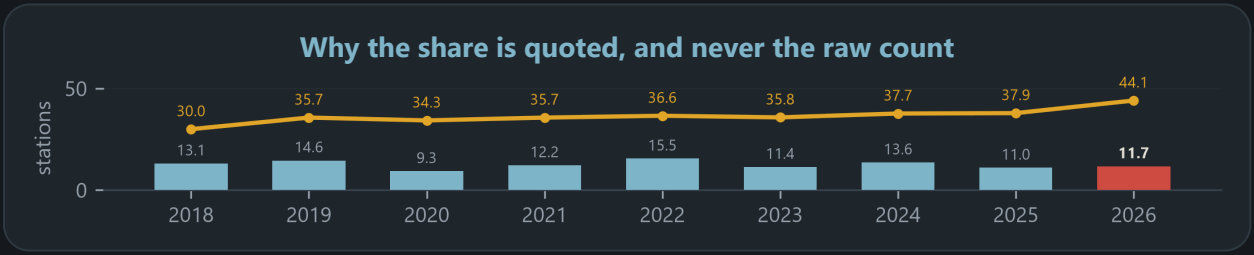
How much of the city was above AQI 200

27.2%

of Delhi's monitors above AQI 200 on an average day

That is 11.7 of 44.1 reporting stations, against 28.8 per cent over the same dates last year, a change of -1.6 points on an interval of -8.5 to +4.7, so it is unchanged inside its margin.





READING Reading: the upper bar is the share of Delhi's own reporting monitors that read above AQI 200 on an average day of that year, so it asks how much of the city was over the line rather than how the city average behaved. Beneath it the amber line counts the monitors reporting at all, and the bars count how many of those read above 200.

CAUTION Caution: the share is quoted and never the raw count, because the reporting network grew from 28 stations to 43 across this record, and a rising count of stations over 200 could mean nothing more than a growing network. It is measured on each day against that day's own reporting stations and then averaged, so it is not exactly the one line below divided by the other.

SOURCE Computed from the CREA compilation of the CPCB hourly record, CPCB 2014 sub-index, calendar day, city figure the mean of station AQIs; PM basis, the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices [1].

THE POINT

On an average day this year, about 11 of the 44 reporting monitors, 27.2 per cent, sat above 200 on the particle AQI.

Who the monitoring network reaches

2.2 km

from the typical resident to the nearest monitor

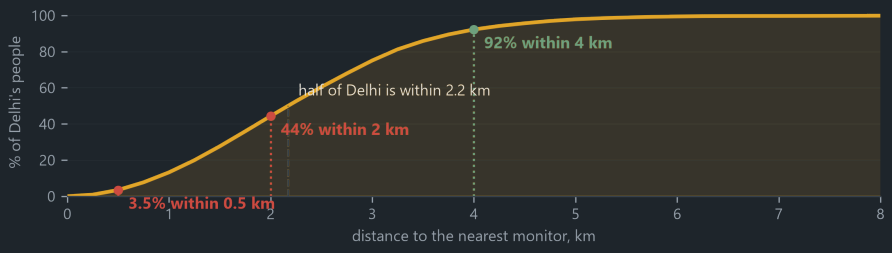
Within 4 km live 92 per cent of Delhi's people, within 2 km 44 per cent, and within 500 m only 3.5 per cent. The map holds 55 monitors in 53 zones; 58 monitors reported today. 33 of the 53 zones stretch past our chosen 4 km proximity threshold, informed by US EPA neighbourhood-scale guidance.

The network on the map

53 mapped zones, and their 2 km circles



How far Delhi lives from its nearest monitor



READING Reading: the curve is the distance from a Delhi resident to their nearest monitor, counted over every person in the city. The three marked points are the shares within 500 m, 2 km and 4 km, so they are readings of one curve rather than three separate facts.

CAUTION Caution: living near a monitor is not protection. This measures proximity to the network, not the air itself. Monitors just outside Delhi are excluded here, and counting them would add about 0.3 points at 4 km.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

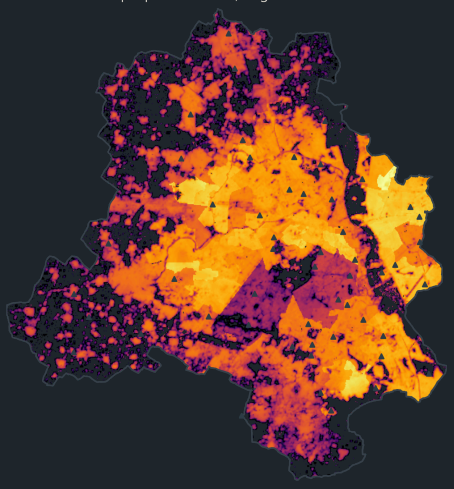
THE POINT

17.6 lakh Delhi residents live more than 4 km from any monitor, beyond our chosen proximity threshold.

Where Delhi's people are, and how the zones are drawn

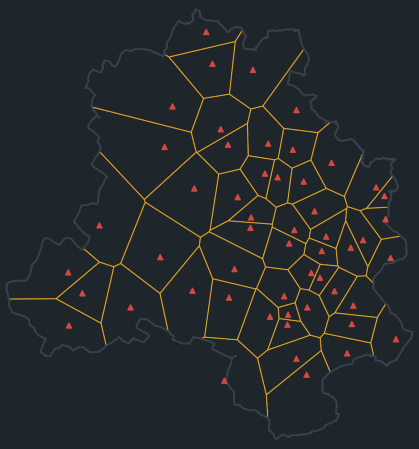
Where the people are

People per 100 m cell, brighter is denser



The zones those people fall in

The 53 zones, tiling Delhi exactly



The Voronoi method, in full

What a Voronoi zone is

Draw a line halfway between each pair of neighbouring monitors. Those lines cut the city into one patch per monitor. Every point in a patch sits nearest that monitor. The patches meet with no gaps and no overlaps, so together they cover Delhi exactly once.

Why the zones differ in size

A monitor in central Delhi has close neighbours on every side, so its zone comes out small. A monitor on the outskirts has few neighbours, so its zone is large. Zone size therefore measures how thinly the network is spread, and not how dirty the air is.

How a zone becomes a weight

The grid counts the people inside each zone. That share then becomes the monitor's weight. A monitor speaking for a tenth of Delhi counts for a tenth, where once it counted the same as one speaking for a fiftieth.

What the weighting allows for, and what it cannot

Monitors are not spread the way people are, and the weighting allows for that. It weights a city average, so it is never an estimate of what one person breathed.

READING Reading: the left map is the population grid, one cell per 100 m, and brighter means denser. The right map cuts Delhi into one zone per monitor, so every point belongs to its nearest one.

CAUTION Caution: the grid is a model, not a census. It places people where satellites see buildings. Constituency shares come from 2025 electoral data, scaled to the reporting year's official population projection. These are estimates of residents, not a new census.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

THE POINT

Weighting each monitor by the people in its zone gives a city average that follows where people live, and these zones are how each weight is worked out.

What each monitor's reading speaks for

52.8 lakh

live within 4 km of a monitor rated Poor or worse today

That is 23.3 per cent of Delhi, living around the 4 monitors that read Poor or worse. Jahangirpuri was worst at 263, and 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it. This counts people near the monitors, not measured individual exposure.

Today, Poor or worse

Jahangirpuri	263 · 12.5 lakh
Punjabi Bagh	230 · 16.9 lakh
Rohini	216 · 13.2 lakh
Mundka (DPCC)	215 · 19.5 lakh

AQI, then people within 4 km. These circles overlap, so the figures do not add.

Station	Lakh within 4 km	Reach km	Avg km
IHBAS, Dilshad Garden	22.8	4.2	2.3
Mundka	19.5	6.4	2.6
Vivek Vihar	17.2	3.0	1.1
Punjabi Bagh	16.9	5.0	2.1
Shadipur	16.5	3.5	1.8
Sonia Vihar	15.8	5.0	2.6
Okhla Phase-2	15.8	3.8	1.7
Anand Vihar	15.3	3.7	1.9
Patparganj	15.1	4.2	1.9
Wazirpur	15.1	3.3	1.6
NSIT Dwarka	14.1	6.2	3.1
Ashok Vihar	14.1	3.5	1.8
Chandni Chowk	13.4	4.2	2.1
Mandir Marg	13.3	3.5	2.0
Rohini	13.2	4.0	2.1
CRRI Mathura Road	13.0	4.2	1.7
Jahangirpuri	12.5	4.7	1.9
Dr. Karni Singh Shooting	11.7	3.9	2.3
Commonwealth Sports Compl	11.7	3.8	1.3
Pusa	11.5	5.7	2.5
Nehru Nagar	10.4	3.3	1.4

READING Reading: each row gives the people living within 4 km of that monitor, then how far its zone reaches, then how far its average resident sits. The 4 km radius is a proximity threshold, not a representation limit. The large figure is today's, so it moves with the pollution and not with the map.

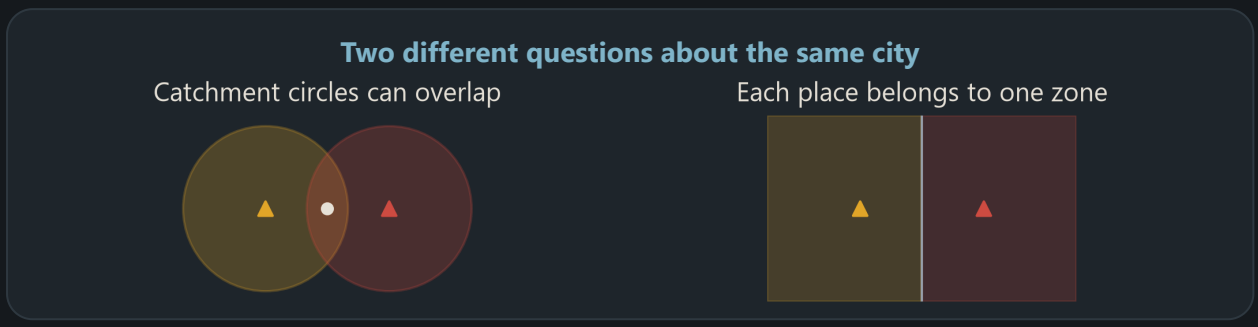
CAUTION Caution: these circles overlap, heavily at 4 km. Added up they return about twice Delhi's population, so read the column one monitor at a time. It has no valid total. Living within 4 km is not the same as breathing that exact reading. Ghoga, Lodhi Road, Tikri Kalan and Uttam Nagar have no mapped location, so the people around them are not counted.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

THE POINT

Today Jahangirpuri read 263, Poor, set by PM2.5, and 12.5 lakh people live within 4 km of it.

How the population estimates are made



WorldPop grid

The 2026 modelled population map (R2025A v1), with cells about 100 m wide. It distributes people within each constituency; it does not set Delhi's total.

Electoral anchor

Each constituency receives the official Delhi population total in proportion to its registered electors in 2025. The total uses the reporting year's 1 July projection.

Station zone and weight

Zones partition Delhi without overlap. A zone's share of mapped residents is its weight. In the weighted average, available monitors sharing a zone are averaged first.

4 km circle and coverage

A circle counts residents within 4 km of a monitor, clipped to Delhi. Circles overlap. Network coverage counts residents in their combined area once.

Reach km and Avg km

Reach is the farthest populated cell's distance to its nearest monitor. Avg is the population-weighted mean distance in that monitor's zone.

People near Poor or worse

Residents in the combined 4 km circles of monitors with screened AQI above 200. Each resident counts once. This estimates proximity, not individual exposure.

READING Reading: circles answer who lives near a monitor; zones assign the population weights. The diagram illustrates the difference and is not Delhi data.

CAUTION Caution: population, registration and settlement patterns can differ. The estimates assume one residents-per-elector ratio across constituencies. The same station weights are used on both sides of a pollution comparison.

SOURCE Population shape: WorldPop India, constrained, 2026, R2025A v1, 100 m, CC BY 4.0. Per-constituency totals are conserved after clipping to Delhi. Constituency shares: 2025 Delhi electoral data, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). The 4 km proximity threshold is informed by US EPA guidance, 40 CFR 58 App D s1.2; it is not a representation limit. Method after Manoj Kumar, "604 air quality stations. But how well do they represent India?", India Air Quality & Energy Insights, 11 August 2026.

THE POINT

The projection sets the total, electoral data sets constituency shares, and the grid places people within them.

Every reporting station

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant
1	Jahangirpuri	263	Poor	PM2.5
2	Punjabi Bagh	230	Poor	PM2.5
3	Rohini	216	Poor	PM2.5
4	Mundka	215	Poor	PM2.5
5	DTU	177	Moderate	PM2.5
6	Vivek Vihar	173	Moderate	PM2.5
7	Bawana	172	Moderate	PM2.5
8	Sonia Vihar	168	Moderate	PM2.5
9	Chandni Chowk	163	Moderate	PM2.5
10	R K Puram	161	Moderate	PM2.5
11	Alipur	159	Moderate	PM2.5
12	Sirifort	149	Moderate	PM2.5
13	ITO	147	Moderate	CO
14	Patparganj	139	Moderate	PM2.5
15	Pusa (DPCC)	139	Moderate	PM10
16	Narela	133	Moderate	PM2.5
17	Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	130	Moderate	PM2.5
18	Wazirpur	127	Moderate	CO
19	Uttam Nagar	125	Moderate	CO
20	North Campus	125	Moderate	PM2.5

READING Reading: all 58 stations that reported in today's window, worst first. Each station's AQI is on CPCB's documented formula: the worst of its pollutant sub-indices.

CAUTION Caution: a monitor speaks for its own neighbourhood, not for the city. The network is not identical from day to day, because stations report on different schedules. A main pollutant marked "set aside" comes from a monitor whose nitrogen oxide readings fail this record's consistency check; it is printed as reported, and this record does not lead on it.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 20 stations on this page was rated Good. The highest here is Jahangirpuri at 263.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant
21	Pusa (IITM)	124	Moderate	Ozone, set aside
22	Dwarka-Sector 8	124	Moderate	PM2.5
23	Karala	122	Moderate	NO2, set aside
24	Shadipur	121	Moderate	NO2
25	Ashok Vihar	121	Moderate	CO
26	Anand Vihar	121	Moderate	CO
27	IMD Lodhi Road	119	Moderate	Ozone
28	IIT Delhi	117	Moderate	PM10
29	Nangloi	116	Moderate	CO
30	CRRI Mathura Road	115	Moderate	PM10
31	Okhla Phase-2	115	Moderate	CO
32	Vasundhara Enclave	107	Moderate	CO
33	Mandir Marg	107	Moderate	PM2.5
34	Burari Crossing	106	Moderate	CO
35	Cantonment Area	106	Moderate	CO
36	IGI Airport (T3)	105	Moderate	CO
37	Commonwealth Sports Complex	105	Moderate	CO
38	NIH Narela	104	Moderate	PM10
39	Ghummanhera	95	Satisfactory	CO
40	Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range	93	Satisfactory	PM2.5

READING Reading: the table continues, same window, same method, worst first.

CAUTION Caution: a monitor speaks for its own neighbourhood, not for the city. The network is not identical from day to day, because stations report on different schedules. A main pollutant marked "set aside" comes from a monitor whose nitrogen oxide readings fail this record's consistency check; it is printed as reported, and this record does not lead on it.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 20 stations on this page was rated Good.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant
41	Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium	93	Satisfactory	PM10
42	Tikri Kalan	92	Satisfactory	Ozone, set aside
43	Sri Aurobindo Marg	92	Satisfactory	CO
44	Lodhi Road	92	Satisfactory	NO2
45	Maidan Garhi	90	Satisfactory	Ozone
46	Najafgarh	88	Satisfactory	CO
47	Talkatora Garden	88	Satisfactory	PM2.5
48	Aya Nagar	87	Satisfactory	PM10
49	NSIT Dwarka	87	Satisfactory	PM10
50	JNU	87	Satisfactory	PM10
51	NSUT Jaffarpur	87	Satisfactory	PM2.5
52	Burari	86	Satisfactory	CO
53	Nehru Nagar	83	Satisfactory	PM10
54	Jharoda Kalan	77	Satisfactory	CO
55	Chhawla	72	Satisfactory	CO
56	Badarpur	71	Satisfactory	PM10
57	Ghoga	65	Satisfactory	CO
58	IHBAS	61	Satisfactory	PM10

READING Reading: the table continues, same window, same method, worst first.

CAUTION Caution: a monitor speaks for its own neighbourhood, not for the city. The network is not identical from day to day, because stations report on different schedules. A main pollutant marked "set aside" comes from a monitor whose nitrogen oxide readings fail this record's consistency check; it is printed as reported, and this record does not lead on it.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 18 stations on this page was rated Good.

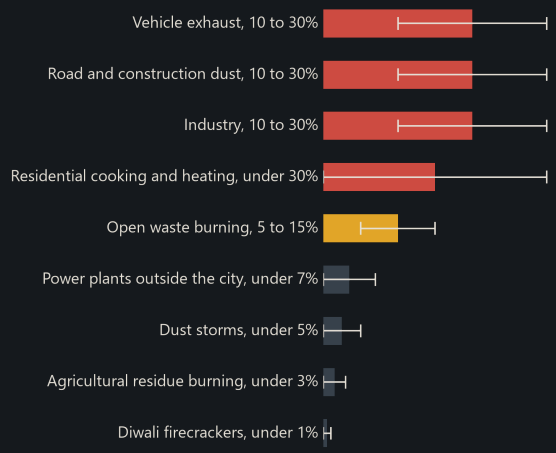
What the daily figures cannot say alone

The year behind today

Over the twelve months to 31 October 2026, Delhi's mean PM2.5 was 91.1 micrograms per cubic metre, which is 18.2 times the WHO annual guideline and 2.2 times India's annual standard, computed over 15,666 complete station-days at 60 reference stations. This is this office's own computation: the mean PM2.5 concentration over complete station-days at reference-grade monitors. The daily headline is an AQI figure, the mean of the station AQIs, so the two measure different things and are not interchangeable. The published calendar-year means, 106 in 2021, 100 in 2022, 103 in 2023 and 102 in 2024 micrograms per cubic metre, come from UrbanEmissions.Info, What Is Polluting Delhi's Air, 2023-24 update, from a 40 station network; they cover a different network and a different period from the figure above, so the two cannot be read as a trend. A single day is the wrong unit for a policy verdict, which is why this page carries the year beside it.

What is actually polluting this air

Across studies from 1990 to 2022, vehicle exhaust, road and construction dust and industry, including power plants each account for 10 to 30 per cent of Delhi's annual PM2.5, so no single sector explains the level and no single remedy can fix it. Agricultural residue burning is under 3 per cent of Delhi's ANNUAL average PM2.5, though its share in a smoke episode is far higher. Diwali firecrackers are under 1 per cent of the annual average, as a two day extreme event. These are annual shares. In winter the residential heating share rises sharply, and the seasonal sources rise with it. Source: Guttikunda and colleagues, What Is Polluting Delhi's Air? A Review from 1990 to 2022, Sustainability, 2023, Table 5.



Each bar is the midpoint and the whisker is the published range, so the width of a whisker is how much the studies disagree. The top three overlap completely, which is the finding: no one sector can be named the villain.

What the delay costs

Holding at 91.1 micrograms per cubic metre instead of reaching the 40 target by 2040 costs Delhi about 30 per cent more exposure and estimated mortality, and the delay since 2019 has already added about 23 per cent. The cost of delay has at least doubled since the National Clean Air Programme began, with little to no change in concentrations between 2019 and 2025. Reaching 40 micrograms per cubic metre by 2040 needs at least 10 to 15 years of systematic implementation across every sector at regional scale. These are increases in exposure and estimated mortality against reaching the target, not sums of money. Source: Guttikunda and colleagues, 40 by 2040: Cost of inaction and delays in reaching Delhi's air quality target, SIM-air working paper 63-2025, Tables 3 and 4.

The source shares and the cost of delay on this page are published work, cited so the reader can check them; the year's mean is this office's own, as its paragraph says.

The method, in plain English

How CPCB's AQI is formed

The air-quality index, or AQI, turns the reading of each pollutant into a sub-index on one scale from 0 to 500, through breakpoints that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) publishes. A station's AQI is the highest of its pollutant sub-indices, and the pollutant that sets it is named beside it. This record follows CPCB's documented formula, quoted from both of CPCB's documents on page 25. It computes six pollutants; CPCB's note counts eight, and ammonia and lead are not included here. The day is the 24 hours ending 4 PM. This record moved to that window on 13 October 2026; the daily figures first published for 7 June to 12 October 2026 used the 24 hours ending 10 AM. The city figure is the mean of the station AQIs, on the stations that report enough hours in the window: 58 today.

How today is compared with last year

Last year is never a single day. It is the average of the same date and the seven days either side of it in 2025, using only the stations that reported in both years, which is 39 stations today. Neighbouring days are alike, so the 15 days act like about seven independent readings. Festival emissions are real pollution and stay in, so a festival such as Diwali that falls in one year's window and not the other's carries that caveat in October and November.

What population-weighted means

Delhi's monitors are not spread evenly over its people, so the weighted figure divides the city into zones, one per monitor, with every point belonging to its nearest monitor. The people in each Assembly Constituency come from the 2025 Delhi electoral shares, scaled to the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84), and where people live inside each constituency comes from the WorldPop 2026 constrained grid at 100 m, R2025A v1. Cells use the raster's native alignment and are clipped to Delhi. Boundary-gap cells take the nearest constituency; each constituency's allocation is preserved. A station's weight is its zone's share of the people, re-scaled each day over the stations that reported. One residents-per-elector ratio may misallocate population where age or registration coverage differs. Both years in a pollution comparison use the same weights. No weighting corrects a monitor's siting or calibration.

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026 (CREA compilation); 2025 Delhi electoral shares, the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84), and the WorldPop 2026 grid.

The method, in plain English

A single gas reading at one monitor can be raised by a fault in the analyser or by a source beside the monitor, and one day's data cannot tell which, so this record does not lead on a reading that carbon monoxide set, and it sets aside a channel whose monitor fails its nitrogen oxide consistency check.

How a change is judged

Every observed change is given a range by resampling the stations or the days, and a change whose range spans zero is counted as unchanged, never as better or worse.

The WHO guidelines

A day's concentration is set against the WHO 24-hour guideline: 15 µg/m³ for PM2.5 and 45 µg/m³ for PM10. WHO defines each 24-hour level as the 99th percentile of a year's days, which allows three or four days a year above it, and sets annual levels of 5 and 15 µg/m³ (WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines 2021, Table 0.1).

Words used

AQI: the air-quality index, 0 to 500, higher is worse: 0 to 50 Good, 51 to 100 Satisfactory, 101 to 200 Moderate, 201 to 300 Poor, 301 to 400 Very Poor, over 400 Severe. µg/m³: micrograms of a pollutant in a cubic metre of air. Particle AQI: the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices, used for the year pages. Range: how far a figure moves when the set of reporting stations is resampled; Residual: one day's level minus the same days of last year.

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026 (CREA compilation); WHO's Global Air Quality Guidelines, 2021, Table 0.1.

CPCB's documented formula, in plain words

The formula

This record calculates Delhi's AQI with CPCB's documented formula. CPCB's AQI Calculator asks for the 24-hour average of PM2.5, PM10, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide and the "max 8-hr" value of carbon monoxide and ozone, and converts each through CPCB's published breakpoints; CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" says the sub-index uses the "24-hourly average concentration value (8-hourly in case of CO and O3)". A station's AQI is its worst pollutant's sub-index, and the city figure is the mean of the station AQIs. This record computes six pollutants, without ammonia and lead, which the note also counts.

The 8-hour rule, in plain words

Carbon monoxide and ozone are averaged over 8 hours rather than 24. The day's 24 hours, ending at 4 PM, hold several 8-hour blocks that lie wholly inside them, and this record takes the highest 8-hour average among those blocks. It does so because the calculator asks for the maximum 8-hour value and the note's fourth point says the index takes in data from the previous 24 hours only, so no hour from before the day's window is used.

Today, on this formula

	On CPCB's documented formula
Delhi's AQI today	121.6
CPCB's category	Moderate
Stations in the mean	58
Highest station	Jahangirpuri, 263

The window is the 24 hours ending 4 PM on 31 October 2026. The city figure is the mean of the AQIs of the 58 stations that reported enough hours in that window; the highest station's figure was set by PM2.5.

CPCB's six categories

AQI	CPCB's category
0 to 50	Good
51 to 100	Satisfactory
101 to 200	Moderate
201 to 300	Poor
301 to 400	Very Poor
401 to 500	Severe

A higher AQI is worse air. The category of a station, and of the city, is the band its AQI falls in.

CPCB's own documents

CPCB's note, "How is AQI calculated?": https://airquality.cpcb.gov.in/ccr_docs/How_AQI_Calculated.pdf. CPCB's AQI Calculator: https://cpcb.nic.in/upload/national-air-quality-index/AQI-Calculator.xls.

Source: CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 31 October 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA); CPCB's note and calculator as linked on this page.

Every figure traces to a dated feed

Sources: the six feeds behind the record of 31 October 2026, each with its own date below.

01 CPCB's hourly station readings, as compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), read on 31 October 2026. The window is the 24 hours ending 4 PM. The city figure is the mean of station AQIs, and each station's AQI is its worst sub-index on CPCB's documented formula.

02 Population weighting uses the 2025 Delhi electoral shares, from about 15.61 million registered electors in Election Commission turnout data. The total is the official Delhi NCT projection of 2.2674 crore as at 1 July 2026 (Technical Group, July 2020, Table 11, p84). Where they sit inside a constituency comes from the WorldPop 2026 constrained population grid at 100 m, R2025A v1, adopted 18 October 2026 in place of the previous 2020 grid. This modelled alpha release is frozen by file hash; it is not a new census. Each constituency's allocated total is preserved. Station zones are a Voronoi map of the active monitors. Tier 1 as data, all series dated.

03 Health characterisation: the CPCB category health descriptors as published with the index, and the WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines, 2021, for the PM2.5 and PM10 guidelines. Tier 1.

THE POINT

Every figure in this record is computed from the data before the report is written, and the report never edits a figure. Where a figure is not available, the page says so.