

73

consecutive days worse than the same days last year, weather removed

Since 30 May, PM10 has not spent one day at or below last year's level once the weather's help is stripped out. The observed number looks better than last year, but the weather flag is up: corrected for weather, today is 5.7 points worse. The improvement is the weather's, not the Government's.

149 / 222

DAYS WORSE THIS YEAR
of all days measured in 2026,
weather removed.

+14.4

AVERAGE EXCESS, $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
PM10 above last year over the run,
weather removed.

157

THE WORST STATION
North Campus, Moderate, today.

The air record

11 August 2026 · Delhi, on the CPCB record and
the weather-corrected truth

The negatives, the demands, the danger

What this record finds today

- Weather removed, PM10 has been worse than last year for 73 consecutive days, since 30 May; 149 of 222 measured days this year sat above last year.
- 5 of 6 pollutants show no real improvement on last year once the weather is removed.
- The index reads level with last year only because the weather is helping; corrected, it is 5.7 points worse.
- North Campus read 157, Moderate, while the city average read Satisfactory; an average is not an experience.
- Even monsoon-washed, PM2.5 is $33.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, about 7 times the WHO annual guideline.

What we ask of the Government

- Publish the weather-corrected series beside the raw index, every day, so the monsoon can never again be dressed up as policy.
- Explain the 73-day run on the floor of the House: which source cut, which enforcement

action, is supposed to have worked?

- Name and 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.
- State the health cost in the terms the WHO uses, not in category euphemisms.

The health hazard

- Today's category, Satisfactory, means: Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people.
- There is no safe level of PM2.5; the WHO guideline exists because risk rises from the first microgram.
- 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.

Ajay Maken

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

What this record holds, page by page

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One fact per page, provable at a glance

Four ways in, depending on the minute you are in



The verdict in one pass

01

The cover, the summary, and the weather-corrected verdict.

Pages 01, 02 and 09.

Today at the stations

02

The spread, the worst station, and the full network table.

Pages 05 onward; the full table at 17.

The year, weather removed

03

The residual pages: the streak, the sign counts, the monthly verdicts.

Pages 14 onward.

The method and the sources

04

How the numbers are made, the fairness check, and every dated feed.

Pages 24 onward.

What de-weathering means. Rain and wind wash or carry pollution away; calm weather traps it. A model removes that effect from the numbers. What remains is the city's own pollution. That is why the Government cannot blame the monsoon for the figures in this record.

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

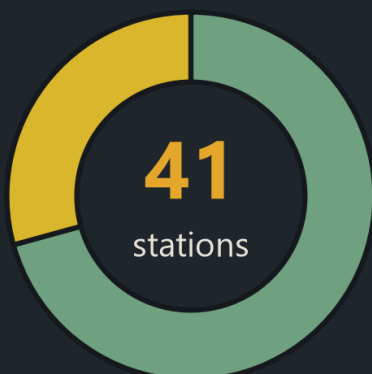
Reading, caution and a dated source under every chart.

The point

The dark band restates the page's sharpest fact.

One average, and the spread it hides

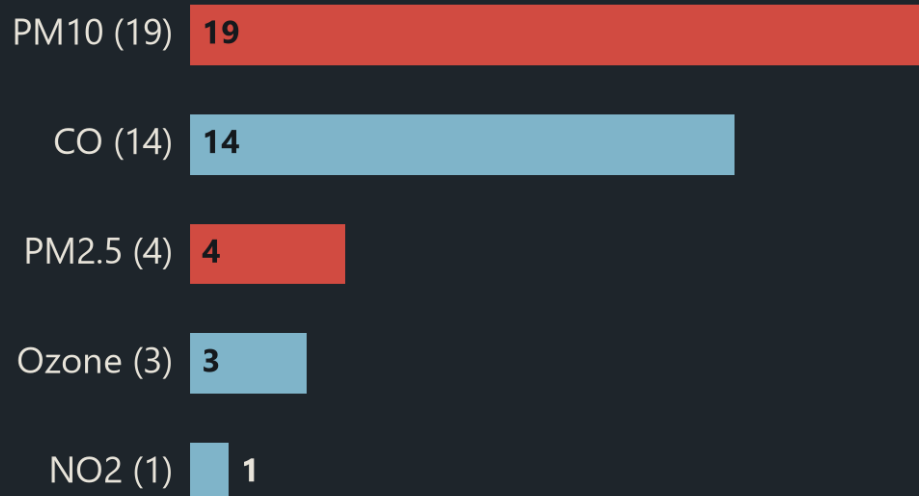
All 41 stations, by category



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 41 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.

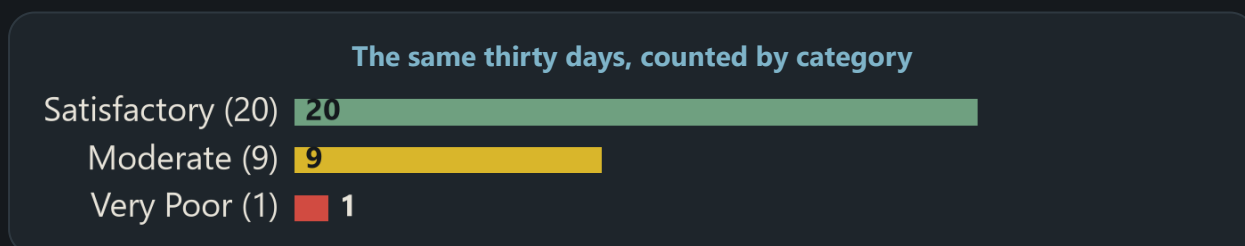
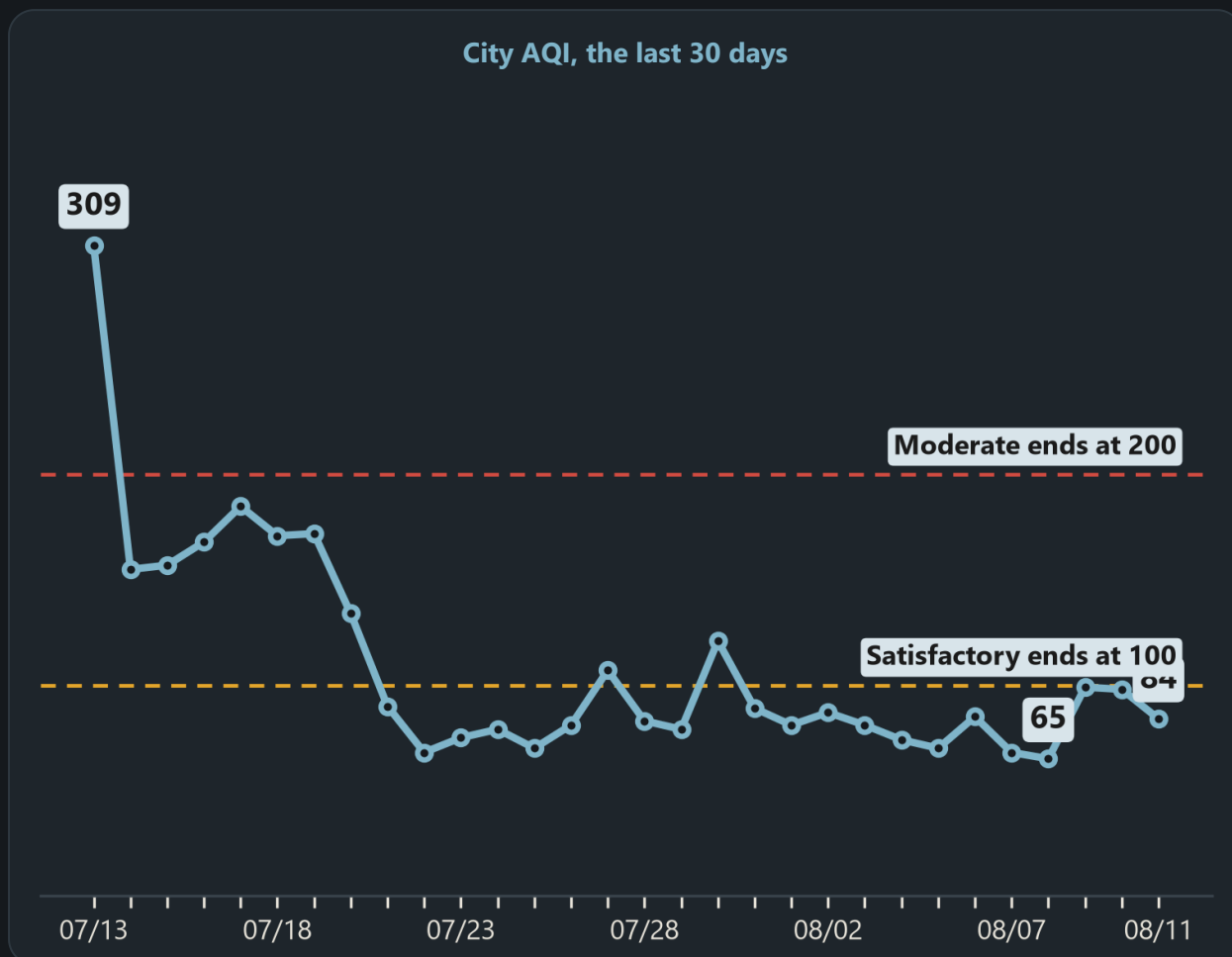
SOURCE

CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

North Campus, DU, Delhi - IITM read 157, Moderate, on Ozone, on a day the city average read Satisfactory.

Thirty days of the monsoon-washed 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: the window is 24h ending 10 AM IST (aligned to daily $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ + de-weather); NOT CPCB's published calendar-day AQI, not the calendar day, so this line and a midnight series will differ.

SOURCE

CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Thirty days ago the city read 309. Today it reads 84. The monsoon is doing the cleaning it does every year.

Against yesterday: the one-day move

-13.8**points on yesterday**

From 98 to 84. The 95 per cent interval runs -26.5 to -6.6 points, on 41 matched stations.

Yesterday to today

Yesterday (grey) to today (colour).

City AQI

98 ● ——— ● 84

Which way each matched station moved since yesterdayWorse than yesterday (6) **6**Better than yesterday (32) **32**No change (3) **3****READING**

Reading: the grey dot is yesterday, the coloured dot today; green marks an improvement. The lower panel splits the same matched stations by which way each one moved.

CAUTION

Caution: a one-day move is weather before it is policy. The year pages carry the argument.

SOURCE

CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

One day proves nothing on its own; the year-on-year and weather-corrected pages carry the argument.

Against last year: the observed reading

-18.5**points on last year, observed**

Today 84 against 104 on the same date last year, matched stations. The interval runs -26.7 to -10.1 points.

The station split behind the averageStations worse than last year (10) **10**Stations better (24) **24****How the 34 matched stations moved vs last year, in AQI points**Better, fell (24) **24**Up 0 to 100 points (10) **10**Up 100 to 200 points (0) **0**Up 200 points or more (0) **0****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: the median worsening is 7.7 points and the median improvement -25.1, so the average hides both. Weighted by population, today reads 88 against 108 last year.

SOURCE

CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

The observed year is not the verdict. The next page corrects it for weather.

The weather-corrected verdict

+5.7

points on last year, weather-corrected

Observed, the year reads -19.7 points, level. Corrected for weather it reads +5.7. 5 of 6 pollutants show no real improvement.

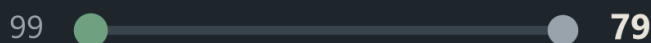
Pollutants with no real improvement on last year



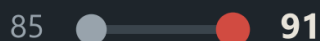
Last year to today, both ways of counting

Last year (grey) to today (colour).

Observed



Weather-corrected



READING

Reading: the top row is the raw index, the bottom row the same comparison after the model removes the weather's hand. The weather flag is up today: the observed improvement is the weather's.

CAUTION

Caution: de-weathering pipeline window (24h ending 10AM IST); not the calendar-day headline window, so this page's observed figure (79) can differ from the headline (84) by window alone. The two are never mixed.

SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

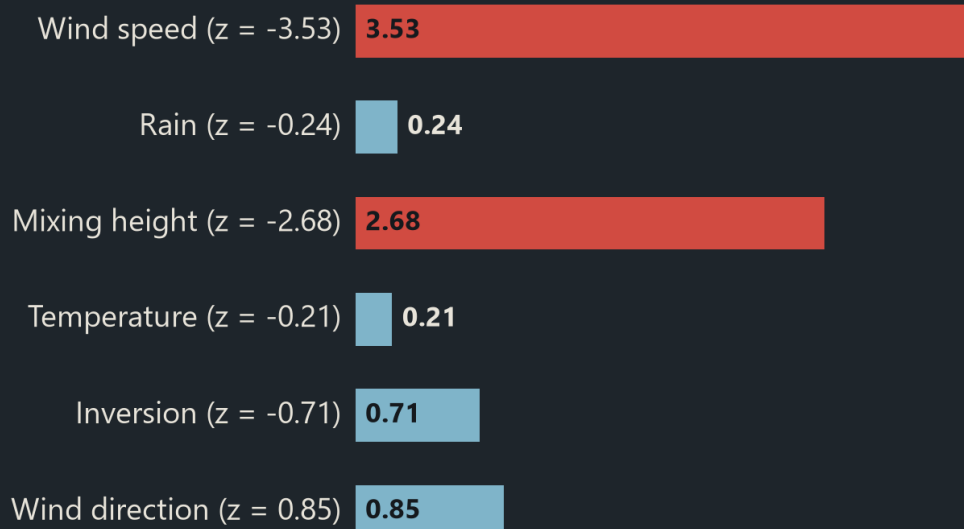
THE POINT

Same date, same stations, weather removed: the air is 5.7 points worse than last year. The monsoon is not a clean-air policy.

The weather's hand, driver by driver



How far last year's baseline sat from normal, in standard deviations



READING

Reading: each tile is one weather driver, today against the same date last year. The z value is how far last year's baseline sat from the 2021 to 2024 normal. The chart draws those same z values as distances, so the gated drivers can be seen rather than counted.

CAUTION

Caution: a driver whose baseline was itself abnormal is greyed and marked. Last year's baseline was abnormal for wind speed, mixing height, so no argument rests on them. The bars carry no threshold line: the gate is the feed's own verdict, printed on each bar, not a cut-off this page invents.

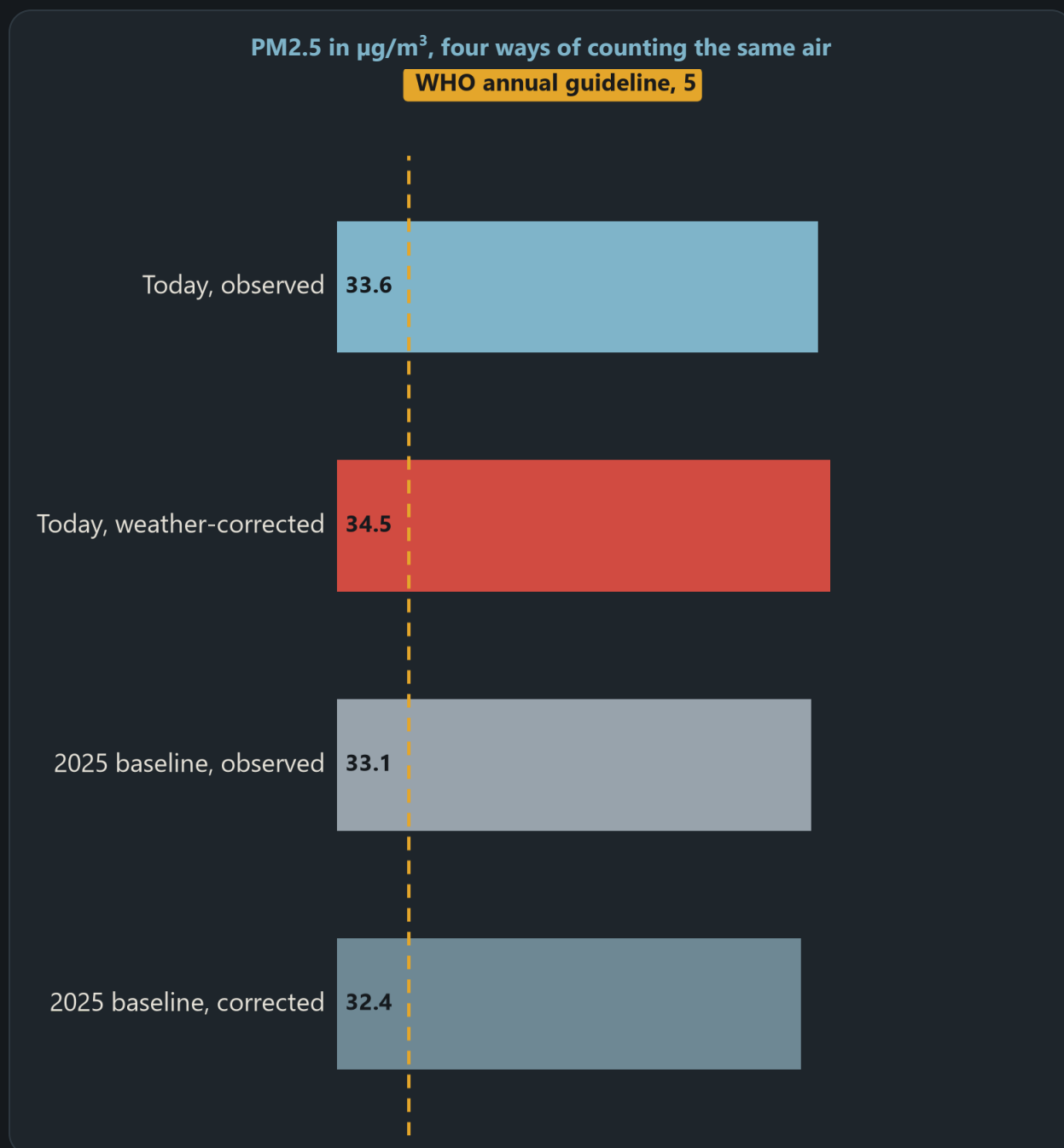
SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, `dw_multipollutant_daily`, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

Wind today is 10.2 km/h against 6 on the same date last year. Ventilation, not policy, is moving the raw numbers.

PM2.5 against the only health benchmark



READING

Reading: the two upper bars are today, observed and corrected; the grey pair is the same date last year. The dashed line is the WHO annual guideline of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

CAUTION

Caution: On days it has never seen, the weather model explains about 38 per cent of the variation, so corrected figures are estimates, not exact points.

SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, `dw_multipollutant_daily`, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

Even on a monsoon-washed day, Delhi's PM2.5 of $33.6 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ runs about 7 times the WHO annual guideline. There is no safe level of PM2.5.

Every pollutant, observed and corrected

Pollutant	Today obs	Corrected	Obs YoY	Corrected YoY [range]	Skill	Role in claims
PM2.5	33.6	34.5	+6.4%	+6.8% [6.1 to 7.9]	38%	Claims-eligible
PM10	71.9	91.1	-25.7%	+7.8% [7 to 8.6]	36%	Claims-eligible
NO2	23.1	26.1	-20.8%	-5.9% [-16.5 to 7.9]	26%	Claims-eligible
NOx	20	22.3	-21.9%	-6.2% [-14.4 to 5.2] (not usable)	35%	Observed context only
SO2	11.3	10.8	+12.8%	-0.7% [-7 to 5.9] (not usable)	8%	Observed context only
CO	1242.3	999.8	+32%	+5.3% [-3.6 to 18.3] (not usable)	25%	Observed context only
Ozone	26.8	31.4	-23.4%	-0.3% [-5.9 to 4.3] (not usable)	36%	Observed only, never a claim

40 of 40

Stations still above the WHO 24-hour limit for PM2.5 (15 µg/m³) after weather correction.

42 of 42

Stations still above the WHO 24-hour limit for PM10 (45 µg/m³) after weather correction.

2.0x

Delhi's weather-corrected PM10 against the same WHO 24-hour limit.

How much of each pollutant's day-to-day swing the weather model explains



READING

Reading: every pollutant we track, observed AND corrected, including the ones we deliberately never build claims on. Concentrations are µg/m³, except NOx, which the monitors report in ppb. A range spanning zero is too close to call. The bars draw the Skill column, red where a de-weathered claim is allowed and grey where it is not.

CAUTION

Caution: skill is the share of variation the model explains on days it has never seen. Ozone is permanently excluded from claims: it rises when traffic NO2 falls, so citing it could be spun as transport improved. Weak-model gases carry observed facts only, and Ozone's high skill is why the bars alone do not decide the roster.

SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

5 of 6 pollutants show no real improvement on last year once the weather is removed.

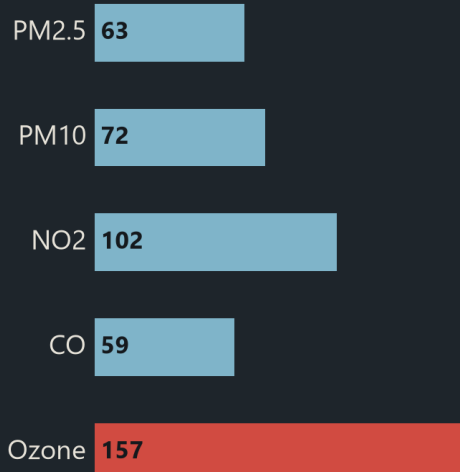
The worst station in the city today

157

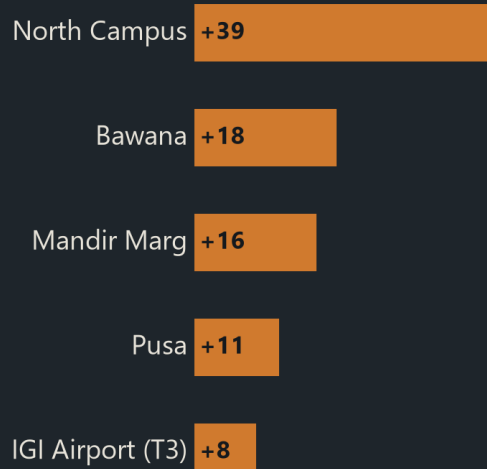
North Campus, DU, Delhi - IITM

Moderate, on Ozone. Last year this station read 118 on the same date; the change is 38.7 points.

The station's six sub-indices



Stations that worsened most vs last year



READING

Reading: a station's AQI is its WORST pollutant's sub-index; the red bar set today's figure. The lower panel lists the stations most above last year, in points.

CAUTION

Caution: one station is one neighbourhood, and a single-pollutant spike can be an instrument artefact; the sub-indices are printed so the claim can be checked.

SOURCE

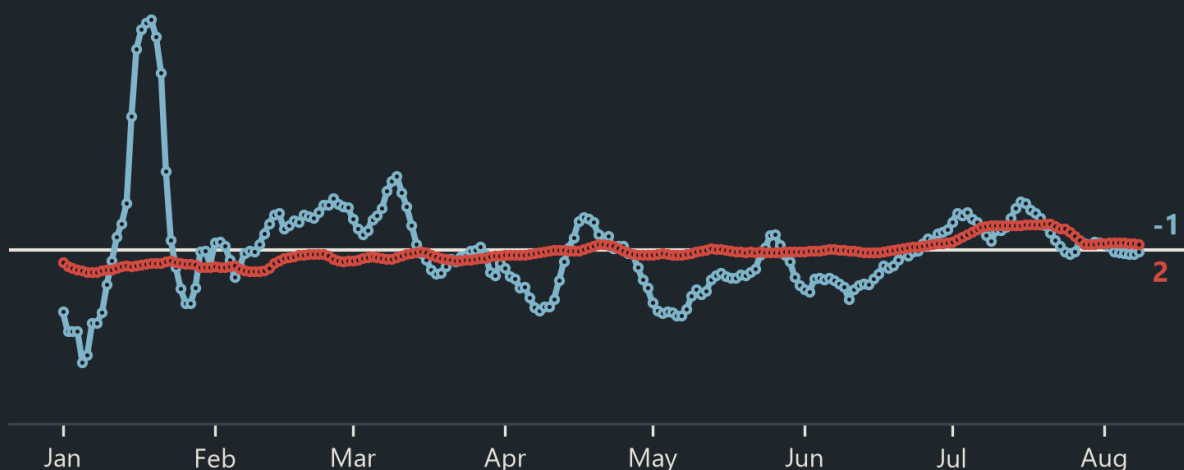
CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

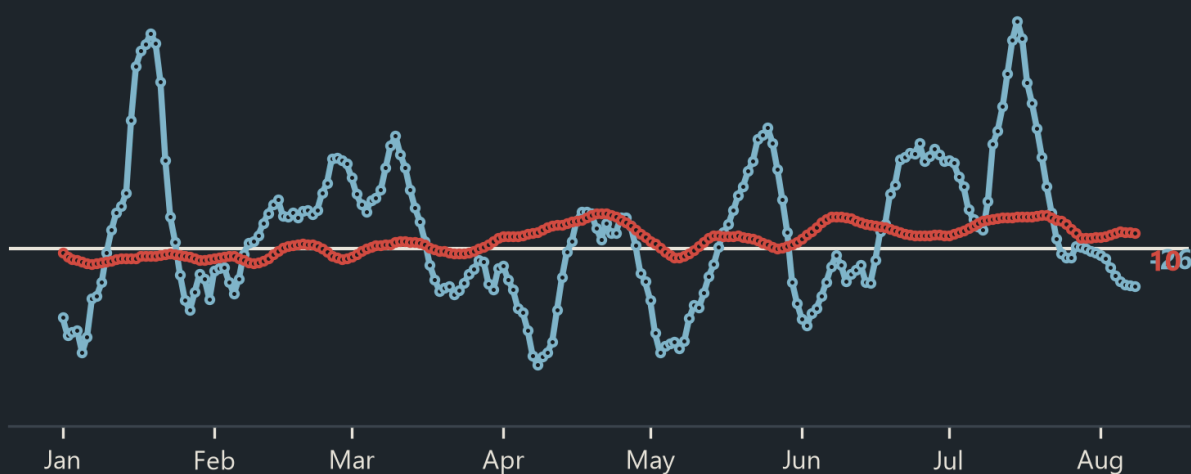
While the city averaged Satisfactory, North Campus, DU, Delhi - IITM sat at 157. An average is not an experience.

Weather aside, PM10 sat above last year on 149 of 222 days, PM2.5 on 79

PM2.5 residual, 2026



PM10 residual, 2026

**READING**

Reading: a residual is this year's level minus the same ± 7 days of 2025. The pale line is the observed residual, weather included. The red line is the de-weathered residual, the change the city's own pollution produced. Above the zero line means worse than last year.

CAUTION

Caution: single-vintage reconstruction with live-archive fallback; 7-day centered average, so the last 3 days are suppressed; days under 30 stations or 15 matched are dropped (222 usable). The model is refit weekly, trained through 2026-08-08.

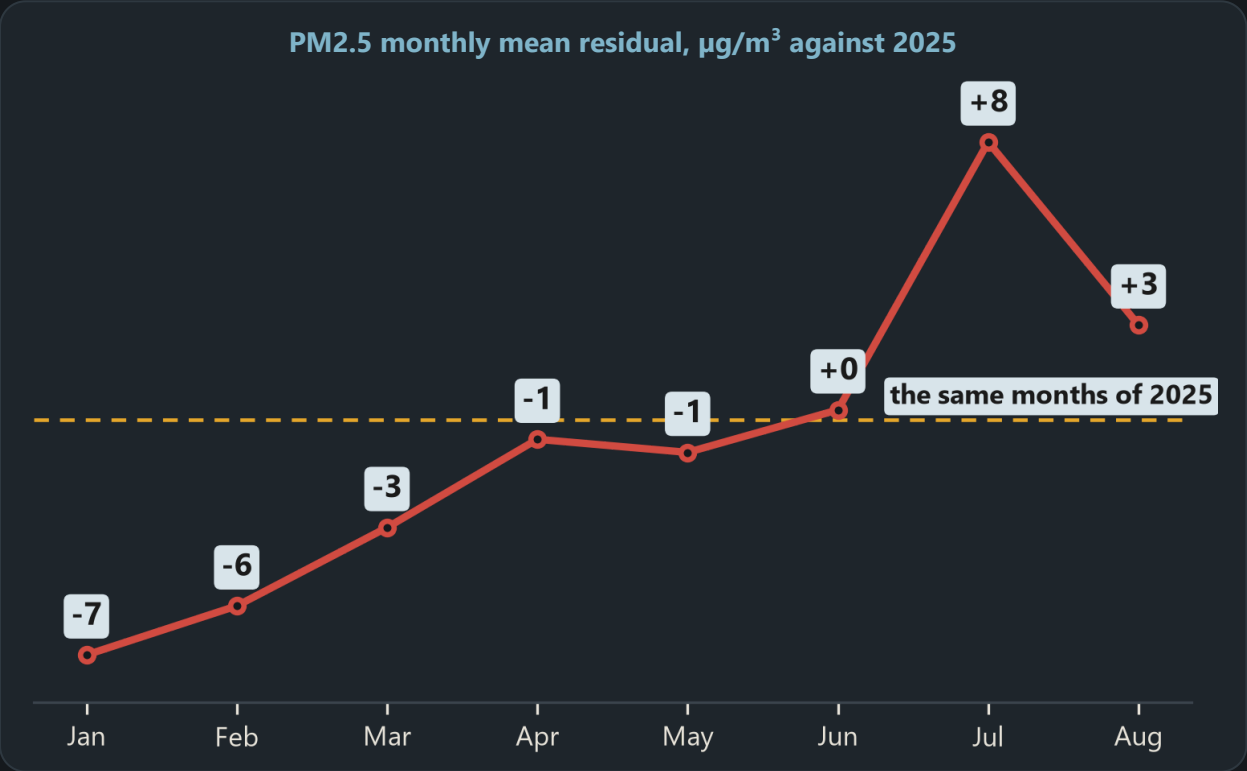
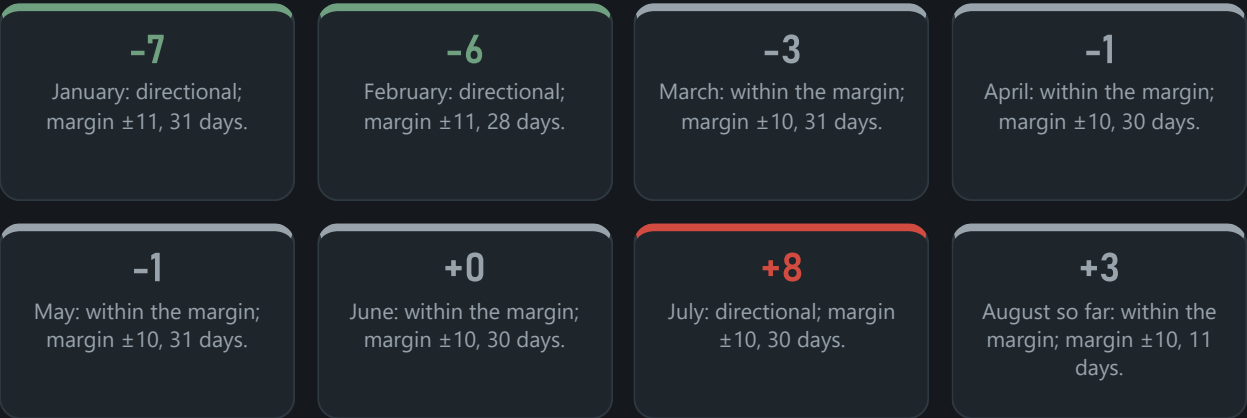
SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, `dw_multipollutant_daily`, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

The sign counts are the finding: PM10 above last year on 149 of 222 days, PM2.5 on 79 of 222. A sign does not depend on the margin.

PM2.5, month by month, weather removed



READING Reading: each tile is one month's MEAN of the raw daily de-weathered residuals for PM2.5, in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above or below the same days of 2025. Red is worse than last year, green better, grey within the margin. The chart is the same twelve figures in order, so the year's shape can be seen rather than assembled from tiles.

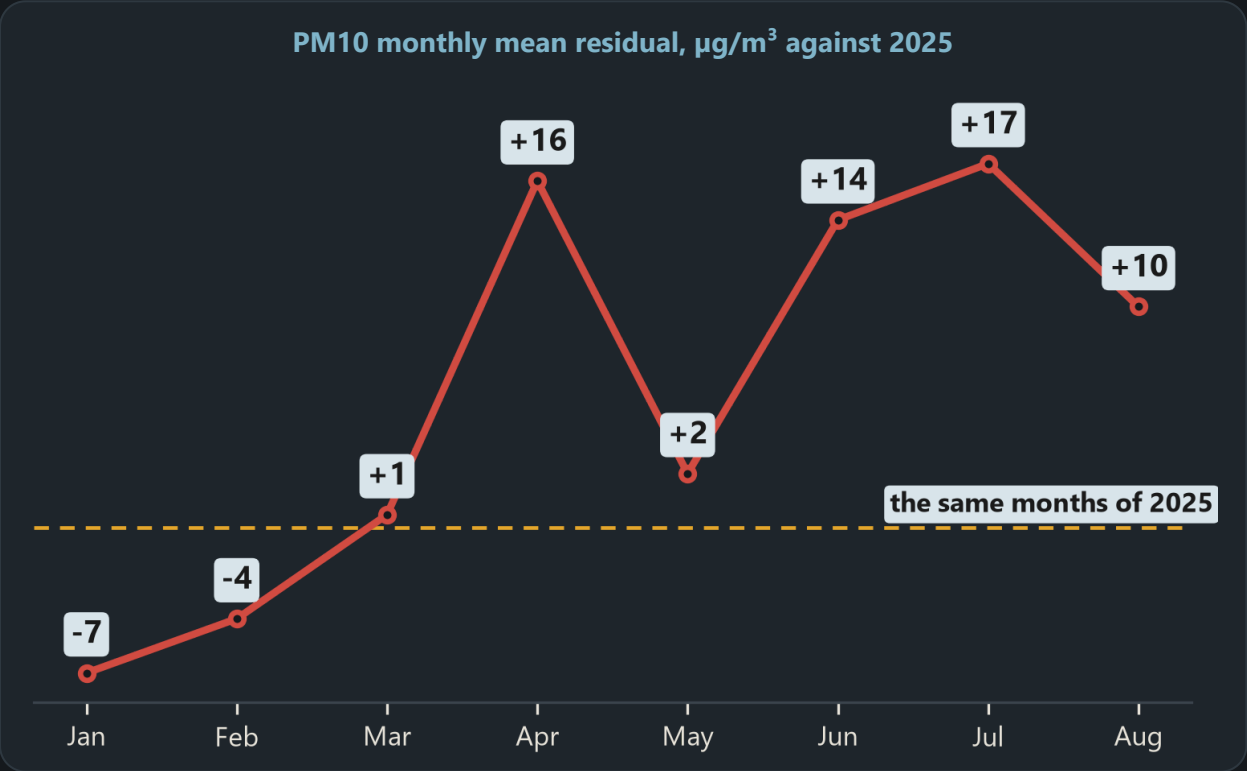
CAUTION Caution: the margin divides an hourly model error by a station count, and the statistician panel has struck that construction in both directions. It is quoted, never load-bearing; the sign counts do not depend on it.

SOURCE De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT
PM2.5: 3 of 8 months sat above last year on the de-weathered residual, 5 below.

PM10, month by month, weather removed

-7 January: within the margin; margin ± 18 , 31 days.	-4 February: within the margin; margin ± 18 , 28 days.	+1 March: within the margin; margin ± 16 , 31 days.	+16 April: directional; margin ± 16 , 30 days.
+2 May: within the margin; margin ± 15 , 31 days.	+14 June: directional; margin ± 15 , 30 days.	+17 July: clears the margin; margin ± 15 , 30 days.	+10 August so far: directional; margin ± 15 , 11 days.



READING Reading: each tile is one month's MEAN of the raw daily de-weathered residuals for PM10, in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ above or below the same days of 2025. Red is worse than last year, green better, grey within the margin. The chart is the same twelve figures in order, so the year's shape can be seen rather than assembled from tiles.

CAUTION Caution: the margin divides an hourly model error by a station count, and the statistician panel has struck that construction in both directions. It is quoted, never load-bearing; the sign counts do not depend on it.

SOURCE De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT
PM10: 6 of 8 months sat above last year on the de-weathered residual, 2 below.

Every reporting station

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant
1	North Campus	157	Moderate	Ozone
2	Dwarka-Sector 8	121	Moderate	PM10
3	Wazirpur	117	Moderate	PM10
4	IIT Delhi	113	Moderate	PM10
5	Anand Vihar	110	Moderate	PM10
6	IGI Airport (T3)	107	Moderate	Ozone
7	Ashok Vihar	106	Moderate	CO
8	Pusa	105	Moderate	Ozone
9	Bawana	105	Moderate	PM10
10	Chandni Chowk	104	Moderate	CO
11	Mandir Marg	103	Moderate	CO
12	IHBAS	102	Moderate	CO
13	Mundka	98	Satisfactory	PM10
14	Rohini	97	Satisfactory	PM10
15	Nehru Nagar	95	Satisfactory	PM10
16	R K Puram	93	Satisfactory	CO
17	Sonia Vihar	88	Satisfactory	PM2.5
18	Cantonment Area	87	Satisfactory	CO
19	ITO	85	Satisfactory	PM10
20	Punjabi Bagh	84	Satisfactory	PM10
21	Pusa	80	Satisfactory	CO

READING

Reading: all 41 stations that reported in today's window, worst first. A station's AQI is the CPCB bulletin method, the worst pollutant sub-index at that station.

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.

SOURCE

CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Not one of the 21 stations on this page was rated Good. The worst here is North Campus at 157.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant
22	Sirifort	76	Satisfactory	PM2.5
23	IGNOU_Maidan Garhi	75	Satisfactory	PM10
24	NSIT Dwarka	73	Satisfactory	CO
25	Aya Nagar	72	Satisfactory	PM10
26	Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	70	Satisfactory	PM2.5
27	Commonwealth Sports Complex	70	Satisfactory	CO
28	Vivek Vihar	67	Satisfactory	PM10
29	CRRI Mathura Road	65	Satisfactory	CO
30	Burari Crossing	65	Satisfactory	CO
31	Najafgarh	63	Satisfactory	PM10
32	Talkatora Garden	63	Satisfactory	CO
33	JNU	62	Satisfactory	CO
34	IMD Lodhi Road	61	Satisfactory	PM10
35	Jahangirpuri	61	Satisfactory	PM10
36	Narela	59	Satisfactory	PM10
37	Okhla Phase-2	59	Satisfactory	PM10
38	Shadipur	57	Satisfactory	NO2
39	Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium	56	Satisfactory	PM10
40	DTU	55	Satisfactory	PM2.5
41	Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range	52	Satisfactory	CO

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.

SOURCE

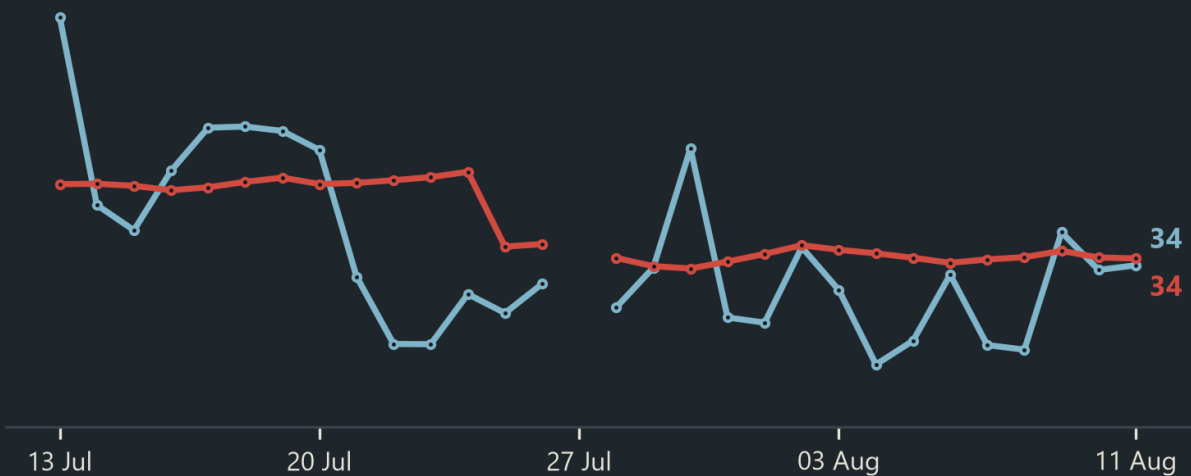
CPCB station data via the daily narration feed, generated 2026-08-11; CPCB 2014 sub-index formula, city figure the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

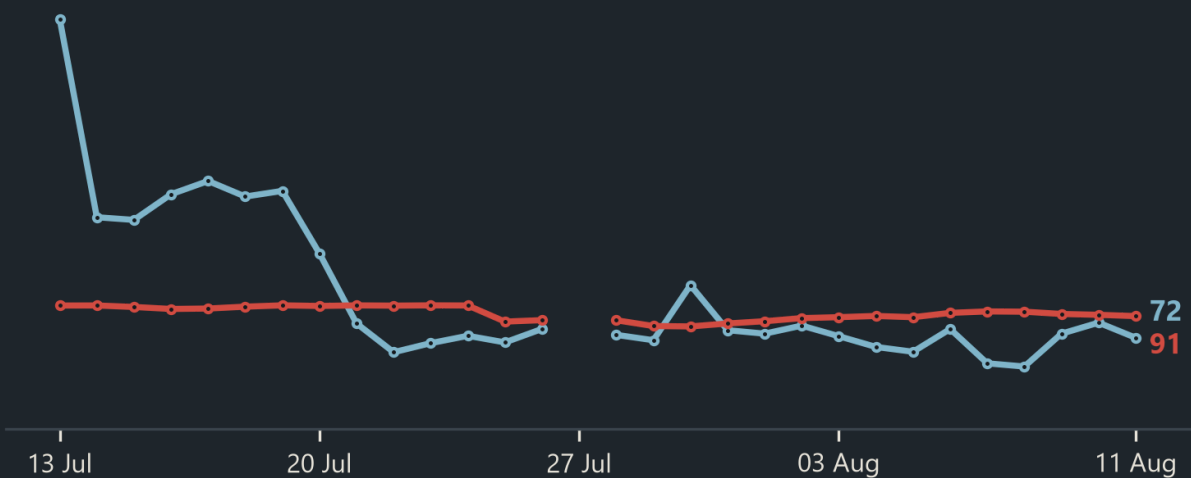
Not one of the 20 stations on this page was rated Good.

Thirty days of levels: PM2.5 and PM10

PM2.5, daily level, not a residual (µg/m³)



PM10, daily level, not a residual (µg/m³)



READING

Reading: these are LEVELS, not residuals; higher means more pollution that day. The pale line is the observed level, weather included. Red is the de-weathered level, what the city's own emissions justify. Gaps are days without a model run.

CAUTION

Caution: 24-hour city means to 10 AM, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.

SOURCE

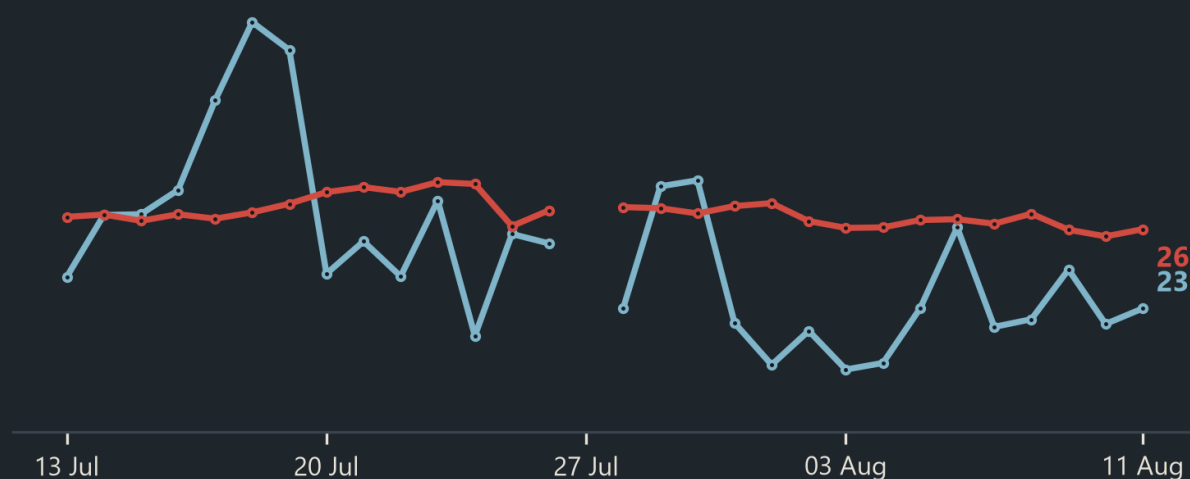
De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

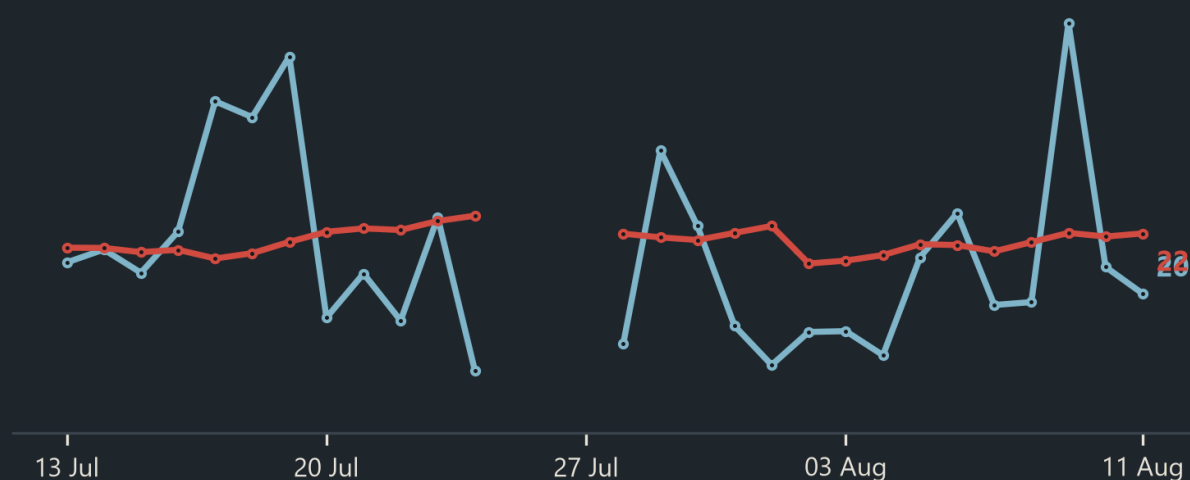
The corrected line sat above the measured line on PM2.5 for 21 of 29 days. On PM10 it did so on 20 of 29. On those days the weather was flattering the city.

Thirty days of levels: NO₂ and NO_x

NO₂, daily level, not a residual (µg/m³)



NO_x, daily level, not a residual (ppb)



READING

Reading: these are LEVELS, not residuals; higher means more pollution that day. The pale line is the observed level, weather included. Red is the de-weathered level, what the city's own emissions justify. Gaps are days without a model run.

CAUTION

Caution: 24-hour city means to 10 AM, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NO_x is in ppb.

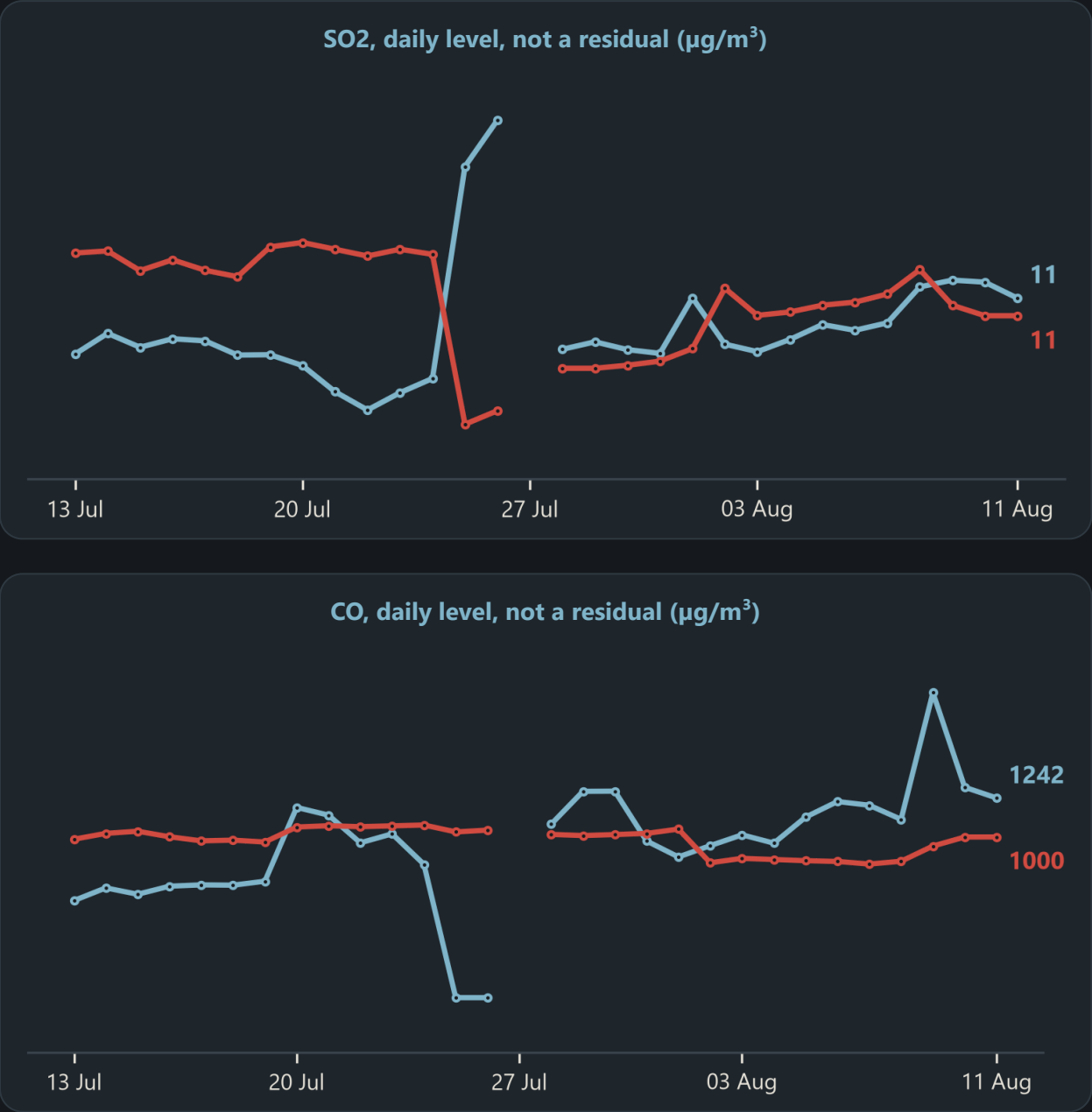
SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

The corrected line sat above the measured line on NO₂ for 22 of 29 days. On NO_x it did so on 18 of 27. On those days the weather was flattering the city.

Thirty days of levels: SO2 and CO



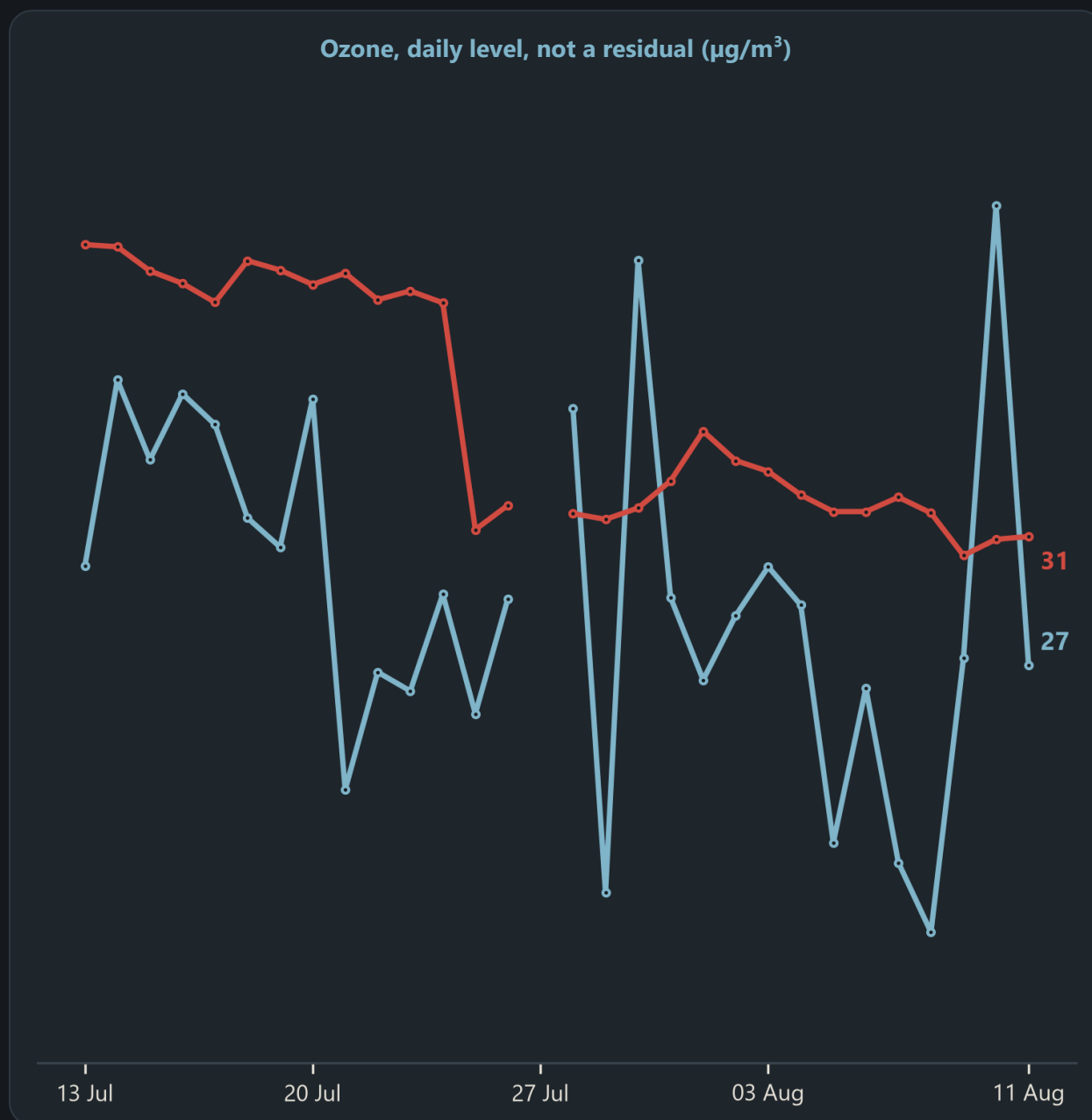
READING Reading: these are LEVELS, not residuals; higher means more pollution that day. The pale line is the observed level, weather included. Red is the de-weathered level, what the city's own emissions justify. Gaps are days without a model run.

CAUTION Caution: 24-hour city means to 10 AM, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.

SOURCE De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT
The corrected line sat above the measured line on SO2 for 19 of 29 days. On CO it did so on 14 of 29. On those days the weather was flattering the city.

Thirty days of levels: Ozone



READING

Reading: these are LEVELS, not residuals; higher means more pollution that day. The pale line is the observed level, weather included. Red is the de-weathered level, what the city's own emissions justify. Gaps are days without a model run.

CAUTION

Caution: 24-hour city means to 10 AM, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NO_x is in ppb.

SOURCE

De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

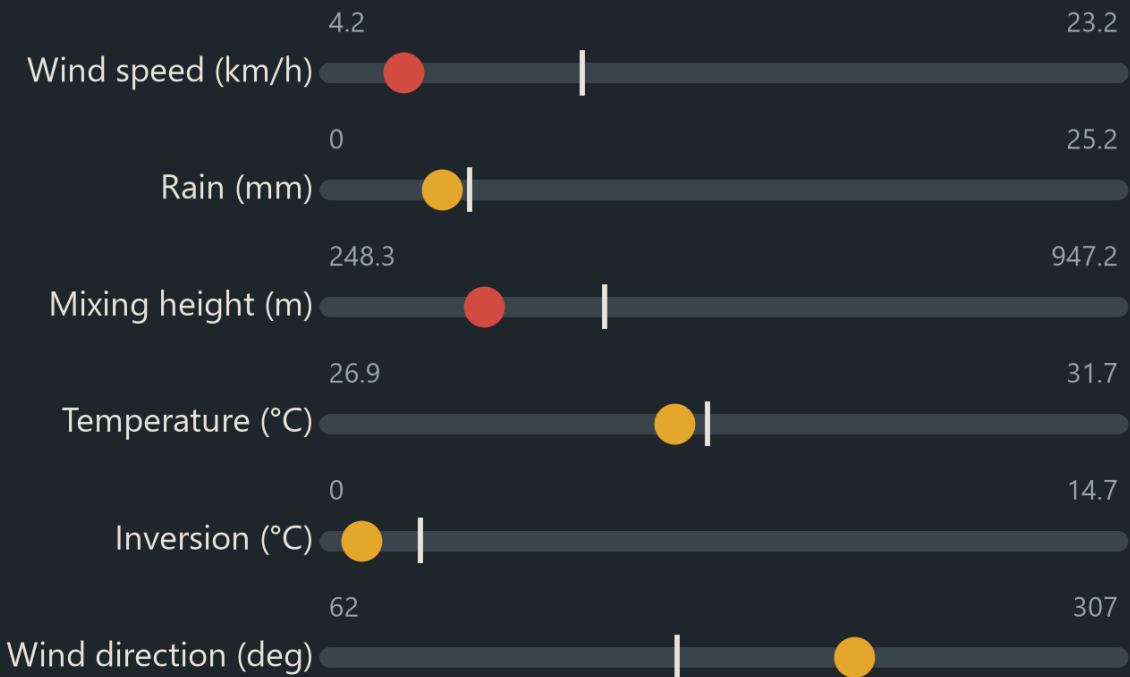
THE POINT

The corrected line sat above the measured line on Ozone for 26 of 29 days. On those days the weather was flattering the city.

The full weather evidence, with its climatology

Driver	Today	Last yr	Normal	SD	p1	p99	z	Verdict
Wind speed (km/h)	10.2	6	10.3	1.2	4.2	23.2	-3.53	abnormal, gated out
Rain (mm)	3.3	3.6	4.5	3.7	0	25.2	-0.24	normal
Mixing height (m)	415.4	385.8	492.1	39.6	248.3	947.2	-2.68	abnormal, gated out
Temperature (°C)	28.8	29	29.2	1	26.9	31.7	-0.21	normal
Inversion (°C)	no data	0.6	1.7	1.6	0	14.7	-0.71	normal
Wind direction (deg)	105	225	170	65	62	307	0.85	normal

Where last year's baseline sat inside four years of history



READING Reading: the full fairness evidence behind the driver tiles. Normal, SD and the p1 to p99 envelope come from the 2021 to 2024 history for these same calendar days. Each bar below is one driver's own envelope, from p1 at the left to p99 at the right, with a tick at the normal and a dot at where last year's baseline sat. A red dot is a baseline the check ruled abnormal.

CAUTION Caution: the check runs in either direction. A driver ruled abnormal is gated out whether it would help our argument or hurt it. Each bar has its own scale and its own unit, so a dot's position compares a driver with its own history and never with another driver.

SOURCE De-weathering pipeline, dw_multipollutant_daily, computed 2026-08-11; weather ERA5 and Open-Meteo [2].

THE POINT

Before any weather driver is cited, last year's baseline is checked against four years of history. A freakish baseline is refused.

The method, in plain English

Where the numbers come from

Every figure is read from the day's two machine-made feeds, never retyped. The window is 24 hours to 10 AM IST. A station's AQI is the CPCB bulletin method, the worst single-pollutant sub-index at that station. The city figure is the mean of station AQIs, 41 stations today.

How we compare with last year, and why the window is 15 days

Last year is never a single day. It is the average of the same date ± 7 days of 2025, using only stations present in both years (34 matched today). Delhi's air is driven by weather systems that come and go every three to seven days. A 15-day window spans two to three of those cycles, so no single storm or calm night can define normal. Neighbouring days are correlated, so the 15 days act like about seven independent readings. That cuts the baseline's one-day noise roughly two-and-a-half-fold. A wider window would blur the monsoon's arrival and the crop-burning surge. One honest limit: festival emissions are real pollution and stay in by design. A moving festival like Diwali can sit inside one year's window and not the other's, so October and November carry that caveat.

What population-weighted means

Delhi's monitors are not spread evenly over its people. The leafy centre has many stations covering few residents; single outer stations stand for lakhs. The weighted figure divides the city into zones, one per station, by a Voronoi map of the active monitors clipped to the NCT boundary. Each zone's population comes from the 70 Assembly Constituencies: the 2025 electoral rolls, about 15.61 million electors from ECI turnout data, scaled to the Registrar General's 2025 projection of 20.94 million. A station's weight is its zone's share of the population, re-scaled daily over the stations that reported. Honest limits: residents without voter registration are under-counted; stations added after

March 2026 are not yet in the zone map; and no weighting fixes a monitor's siting or calibration.

What weather-corrected means

A random-forest model, trained on five years of hourly data, learns how wind, rain, temperature and mixing height move pollution. Subtracting that effect shows what the city's own emissions justify. On days it has never seen, the model explains about 38 per cent of the variation. We therefore treat outputs as estimates, quote ranges, and never claim precision the model does not have.

The fairness check

Before we cite any weather driver, last year's baseline weather is compared with the 2021 to 2024 history for the same calendar days. If last year was freakish for that driver, we do not build an argument on it. That holds in either direction.

The rules we bind ourselves with

The headline always states the WORSE of the observed and weather-corrected numbers, never the flattering one. One number, one engine: the same quantity is never quoted from two sources. A change whose range spans zero is too close to call, whether it helps us or hurts us. Gas levels are never the basis of a claim; gas directions may be cited when statistically clear. Ozone is the standing exception: it rises when traffic emissions fall, so it is permanently excluded from our claims.

Words used

AQI: the air-quality index, 0 to 500, higher is worse; 0 to 50 is Good, 301 to 400 Very Poor, over 400 Severe.
 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$: micrograms of pollutant per cubic metre of air.
 Range: the span within which the true value very likely lies.

Report auto-generated daily from the same data files as the video, so the two can never disagree.

Every figure traces to a dated feed

- 01 CPCB station data, read through the daily narration feed `CPCB_AQI_narration_2026-08-11.json`, generated 2026-08-11. The window is 24h ending 10 AM IST (aligned to daily $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ + de-weather); NOT CPCB's published calendar-day AQI. City figure is the mean of station AQIs; each station's AQI is its worst sub-index under the CPCB 2014 formula. Tier 1, the regulator's own published station data.
- 02 De-weathering pipeline, `dw_multipollutant_daily_20260811.json`, computed 2026-08-11. A random-forest weather model on ERA5 and Open-Meteo hourly data; its out-of-sample skill is printed on the page that uses it. Our own computation, stated as such and reproducible from the held code and data.
- 03 Weather comparison: ERA5 and Open-Meteo hourly observations, aggregated over the same 24h-to-10AM window as the AQI, with a 2021 to 2024 climatological normal for the anomaly check. Tier 1 as data, dated in the feed.
- 04 Population weighting: the 2025 Delhi electoral rolls, about 15.61 million electors, from Election Commission of India turnout data, scaled to the Registrar General of India's 2025 projection for the National Capital Territory, 20.94 million; split over station zones by a Voronoi map of the active monitors. Tier 1 as data, both series dated.
- 05 Year residual series and the cover cascade: the single-vintage reconstruction `dw_reconstruction_2026` with live-archive fallback; strict filename census; model refit weekly, trained through 2026-08-08; the same definitions as `hawakahisab.in`'s daily figures. Our own computation, stated as such.
- 06 Health characterisation: the CPCB category health descriptors as published with the index, and the WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines, 2021, for the PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ limits. Tier 1.

THE POINT

Both feeds are produced before this report and are never edited by it. What the feed does not carry, the page says is unavailable.