

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLEAN AIR FOR BLUE SKIES

7 September - Observed globally

Designated by the **UN General Assembly** in 2019 to strengthen global action against **air pollution**.

AIR POLLUTION

Definition

- Presence of harmful substances in the atmosphere at concentrations that can harm:
- Human Health + Environment

Pollutants

- May occur as:
- Gases • Liquid droplets • Solid particles
 - Sources: Natural + Anthropogenic

Major Pollutants

PM • NO₂ • SO₂ • O₃ • CO • VOCs • Lead



PARTICULATE MATTER (PM)



Why PM_{2.5} is more hazardous

- Smaller particle size
- Deeper penetration into respiratory system
- Can enter bloodstream
- Greater health risks

Type	Diameter
PM ₁₀	≤ 10 µm
PM _{2.5}	≤ 2.5 µm



AIR POLLUTION IN INDIA

World Air Quality Report 2025

Indicator	Finding
India	6th most polluted country globally
National PM _{2.5} average	48.9 µg/m ³
WHO guideline	5 µg/m ³
Most polluted city	Loni (Ghaziabad) - PM _{2.5} 112.5 µg/m ³
Byrnihat, Meghalaya	3rd most polluted city globally
Delhi	4th globally
Top 25 polluted cities	Located in Pakistan, India & China

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO CURB AIR POLLUTION

Initiative	Purpose / Focus
NAMP	CPCB programme to monitor ambient air quality, pollution levels, trends & future changes
NCAP (2019)	Reduce air pollution in identified cities/regions through monitoring, emission control & public awareness
BS-VI (2020)	Stricter vehicle emission norms; cleaner fuels & advanced emission-control technologies
Swachh Vayu Survekshan (2022-23)	Annual assessment of 130 cities under NCAP; evaluates pollution-control measures & City Clean Air Action Plans
PMUY	Promotes LPG as clean cooking fuel; reduces dependence on biomass
FAME	Promotes electric & hybrid vehicles through incentives; reduces vehicular emissions
GRIHA	Reduces open waste burning & improves waste disposal
Waste Management	Reduces open waste burning & improves waste disposal
CAQM	Coordinates action on air pollution in NCR & adjoining areas through coordination, research & problem-solving
Green India Mission	Promotes afforestation & increased tree cover to support air-quality improvement