

## Effect of Nationwide Lockdown on Air Quality of Indian Cities during COVID-19

### Pandemic

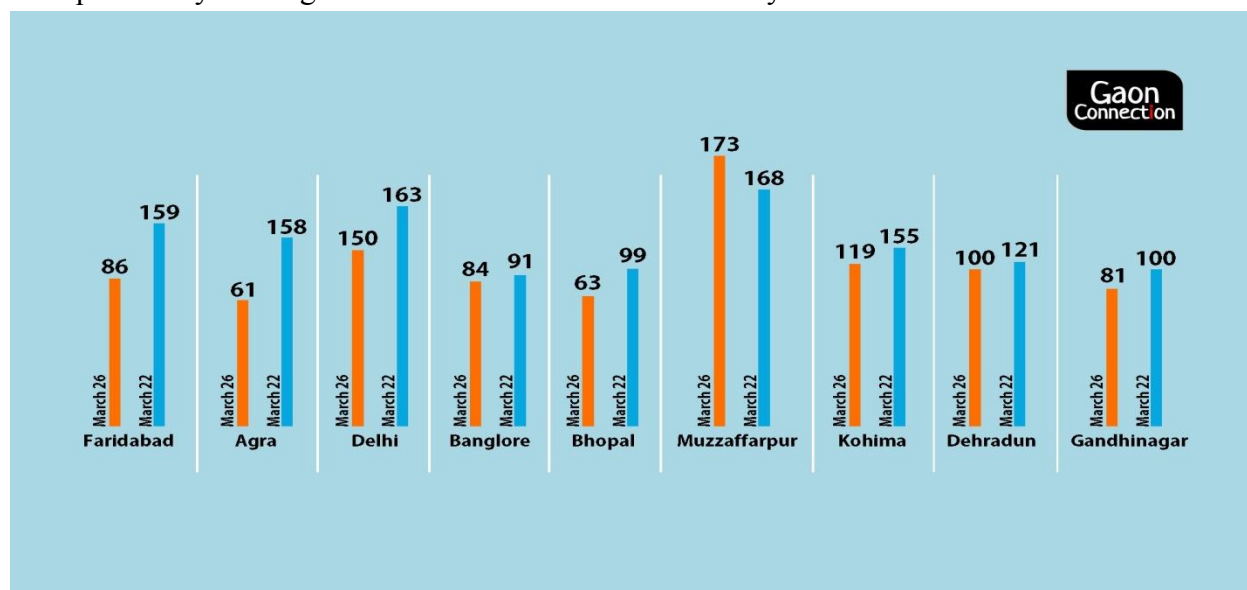
The nationwide 'Janta Curfew' on March 22 and the 21-day lockdown imposed since March 24 to combat the coronavirus outbreak have resulted in a significant improvement in air quality in the country, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

In the capital, New Delhi, government data shows the average concentration of PM 2.5 plunged by 71% in the space of a week -- falling from 91 microgram per cubic meter on **March 20, to 26 on March 27**, after the lockdown began. The World Health Organization considers anything above 25 to be unsafe. Nitrogen dioxide went from 52 per cubic meter to 15 in the same period -- also a 71% fall. Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Bangalore have also recorded a fall in these air pollutants.

Significant reduction in pollution in the country with 91 cities recording air quality in the 'good' and 'satisfactory' category on **March 29**, a Central Pollution Control Board report has stated.

With a nationwide lockdown in place in view of corona virus, India continued to breathe easy as pollution level in 88 cities across the country remained minimal. Out of the 103 cities where air quality was recorded, 23 registered 'good' air quality while 65 others recorded satisfactory air quality, according to the data from the Central Pollution Control Board (**March 31**).

According to Central Pollution Control Board's National Air Quality Index data, AQI reading at Delhi's ITO area was 'satisfactory' at 53 on **31 March**, 2020, a reduction of about 70 per cent from previous year's figure of 176 recorded on the same day.





# LOCKDOWN REDUCES AIR POLLUTION



NORTH INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL HUB SHOWS MAXIMUM IMPROVEMENT IN AIR QUALITY

CITY	NON LOCKDOWN (16-24 MARCH)	LOCKDOWN DAYS (25-27)	CHANGE %
BHIWADI	207	42	-80
MANDI GOBINDGARH	117	42	-64
MANESAR	123	46	-63
GHAZIABAD	188	81	-57
KHANNA	73	34	-54
NOIDA	152	71	-54
BALLABHGARH	102	51	-50

## COMPARISON WITH AIR POLLUTION LAST YEAR

CITY	AQI (25-27 MAR) 2019	AQI (25-27 Mar) 2020	CHANGE %
BHIWADI	221	42	-81
MANDI GOBINDGARH	149	42	-72
MANESAR	158	46	-71
GHAZIABAD	168	81	-52
KHANNA	75	34	-55
NOIDA	141	71	-50
BALLABHGARH	217	51	-76

Air Quality Index

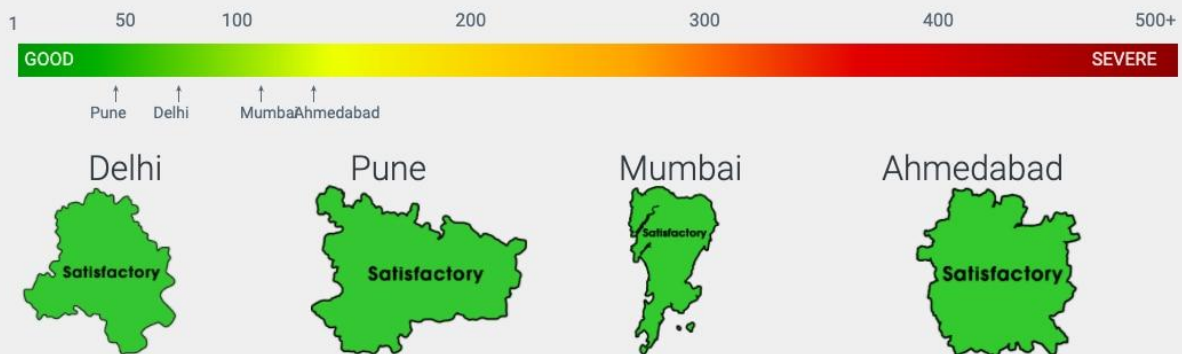
0-50 Good    51-100 Satisfactory    101-200 Moderate    201-300 Poor

Source: Central Pollution Control Board



## Air Quality Across SAFAR Cities: AQ-Index

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**AQI** is assessment of the air quality by taking into account different factors. The lower the AQI the better the air is considered to be.

An AQI between 0-50 is considered good, 51-100 satisfactory, 101-200 moderate, 201-300 poor, 301-400 very poor and 401-500 severe.