THE DAILY ACCOUNTABILITY RECORD OF DELHI'S AIR

387

AQI at DTU, 24 hours to 4 PM, 21 November 2026, the worst monitor in Delhi today, Very Poor on CPCB's documented formula, and PM2.5 set that figure. 8.4 lakh people live within 4 km of it.

Delhi's AQI was 286.6, Poor, calculated with CPCB's documented formula as the mean of 57 stations' AQIs (CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" and its AQI Calculator; page 29 sets out the formula). As measured, 56 of the 56 monitors reading PM2.5 were above the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³. Above AQI 200 today: 50 stations, DTU 387, North Campus 383, Chandni Chowk 367, Punjabi Bagh 363, and 46 more in the station table. Poor or worse air reached 1.92 crore people within 4 km of their monitor today, 84.7 per cent of Delhi.

The year so far, 1 January to 20 November: the cleaner days of 2026 have been the dirtiest for these dates since 2019, because three days in four read above 109.6 on the particle AQI, against 97.6 on the same dates of 2025. The middle day reads 160.5 against 150.4 on the same dates last year. On an average day, 31.4 per cent of Delhi's reporting monitors, about 14 of 45, sat above 200 on the particle AQI.

286.6

TODAY

Delhi's AQI calculated with CPCB's documented formula, the mean of 57 stations.

1.92 crore

NEAR POOR OR WORSE

Within 4 km of 50 Poor-or-worse monitors: 84.7 per cent of Delhi, every pollutant counted.

8.8x

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 21 November 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

21 November 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, 21 NOVEMBER 2026, 24 HOURS TO 4 PM. DTU read 387, Very Poor, set by PM2.5; 8.4 lakh people live within 4 km of it. The monitors gave Delhi 286.6, calculated with CPCB's documented formula (CPCB's note "How is AQI calculated?" and its AQI Calculator; page 29).

What this record finds today

- Three of every four days of 2026 so far read above 109.6 on the particle AQI, the highest that line has stood for 1 January to 20 November since 2019, when it was 117.9; the middle day rose from 150.4 to 160.5.
- DTU read 387, Very Poor, set by PM2.5, while the city average read Poor, and 8.4 lakh people live within 4 km of it. An average is not an experience.
- PM2.5 averaged 133 µg/m³ over the 24 hours to 4 PM as measured, 8.8 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³; all 56 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 21 November, 15 of the 57 monitors that reported gave no reading for at least one of the six pollutants.

The health hazard

- Today's category, Poor, in CPCB's own words, Table 3.12 of its National AQI report: "May cause breathing discomfort to people on prolonged exposure and discomfort to people with heart disease with short exposure"
- 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.
- The answer says NCDC runs sentinel surveillance of air pollution-related illness at more than 230 sites in 30 States and UTs, with digital acute respiratory infection surveillance since August 2023. (Rajya Sabha USQ 274 of 2 December 2025, respiratory illness at Delhi hospitals, 2025, Answer, page 1).

Shri Ajay Maken

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Source: CPCB hourly station data, 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 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; Rajya Sabha USQ 274 of 2 December 2025, respiratory illness at Delhi hospitals (2025), Answer, page 1, row HP-199 of the health evidence base.

What this record holds, page by page

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25	Every station, contd.	the full network table
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27	The method	plain English, on two pages
29	How this record calculates the AQI	CPCB's documented formula, with CPCB's links
30	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 07 onward.

03 Part C. People, reference, method

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

Pages 19 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.

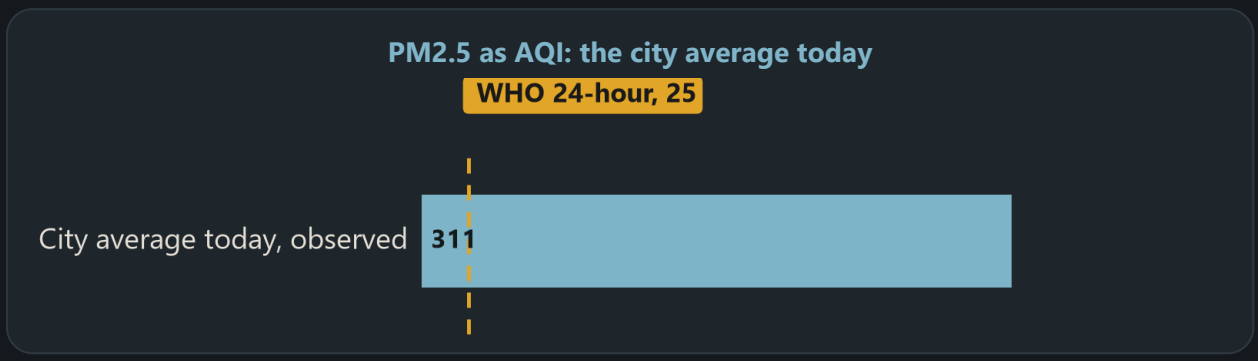
The tab
It names the data and the exact window.

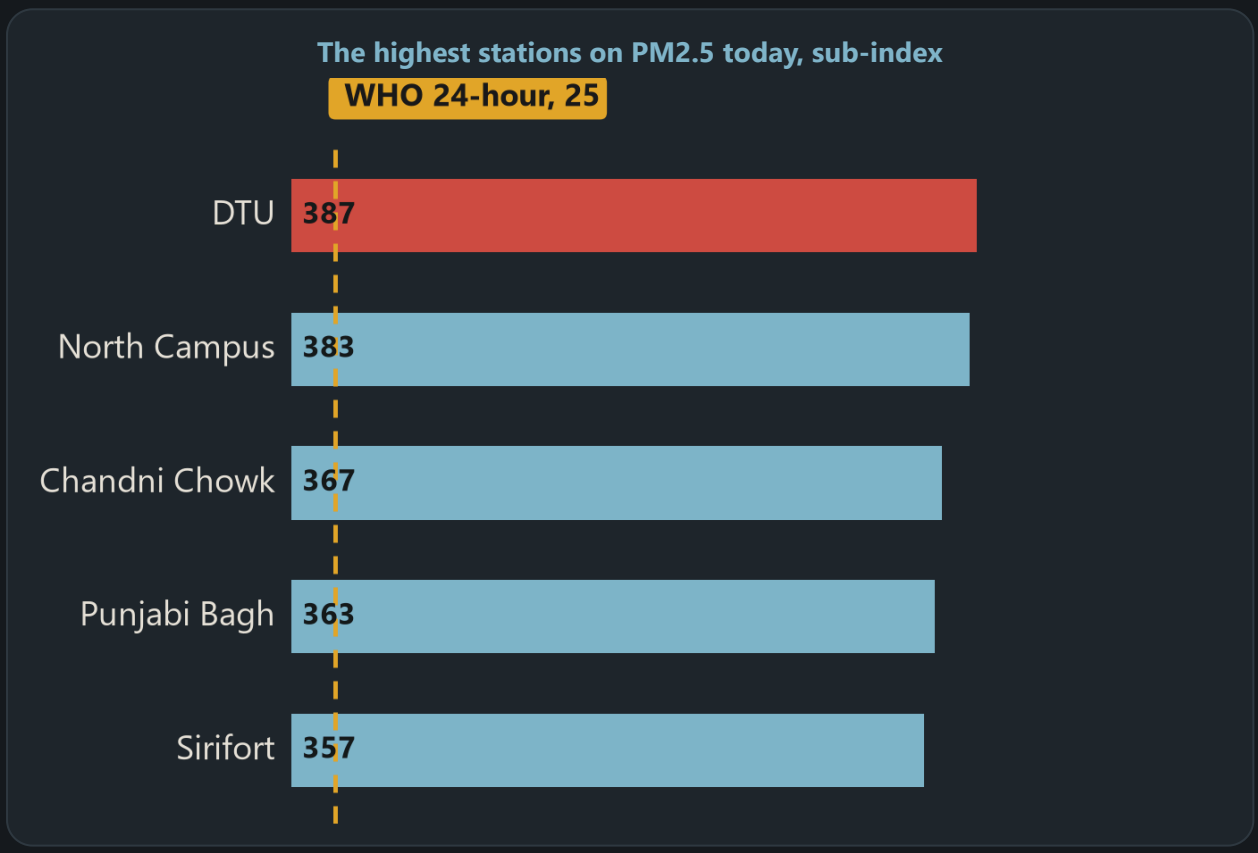
The banner
It states the finding, ready to be read out.

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.

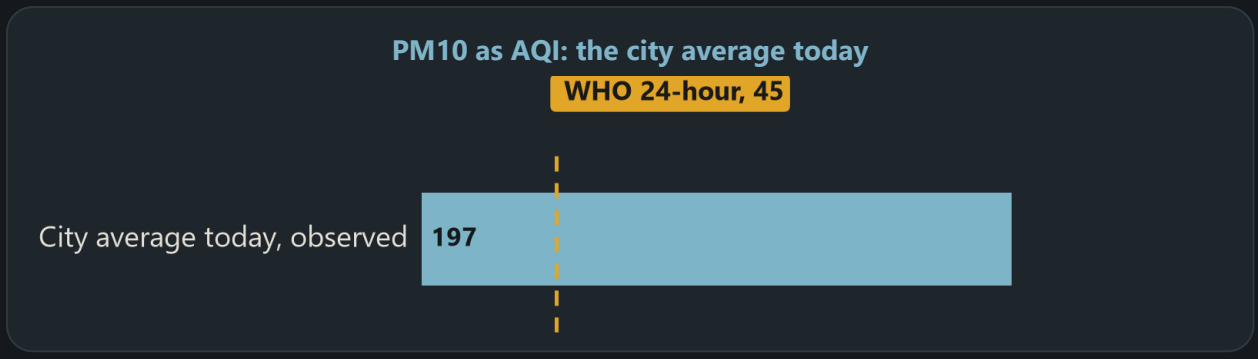
CAUTION Caution: every sub-index on this page is the observed one, on CPCB's documented formula, and one station's figure describes one neighbourhood.

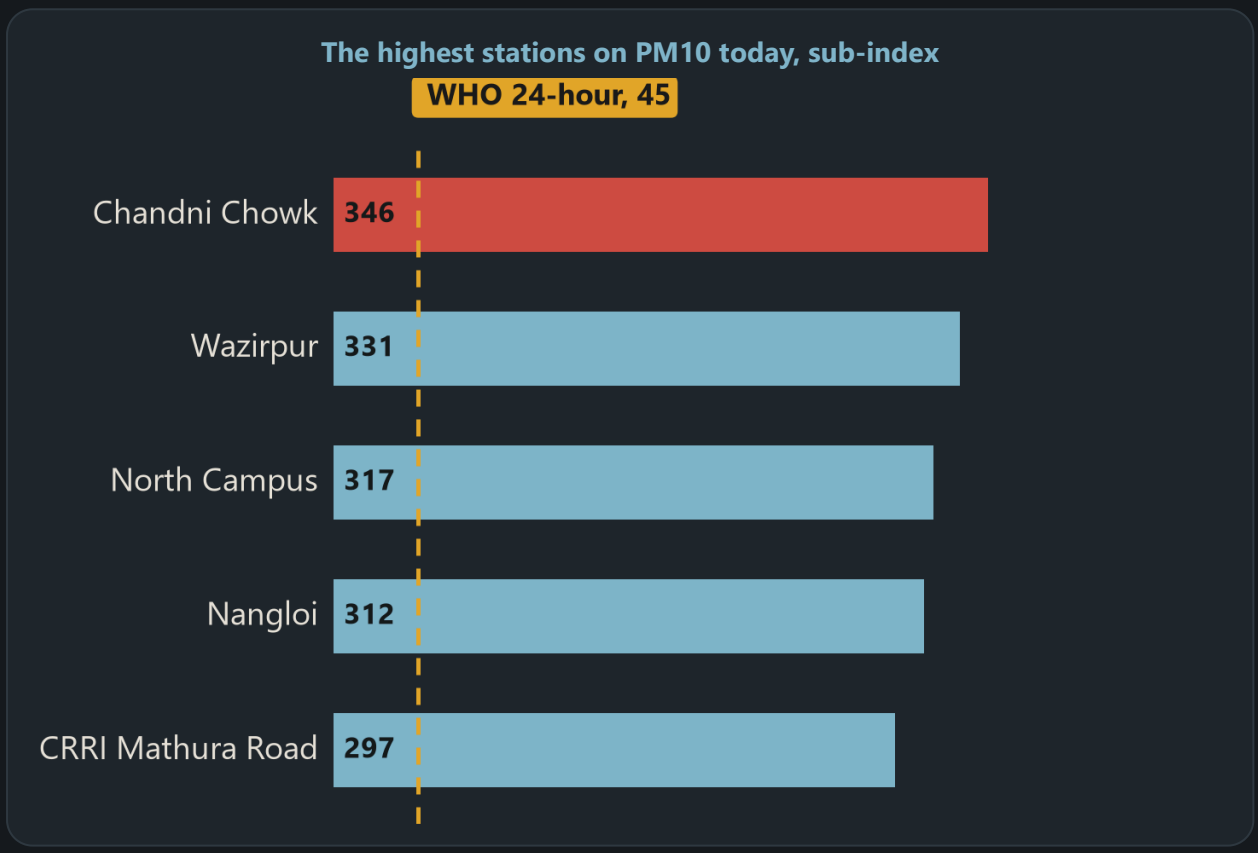
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Delhi's PM2.5 averaged 133 µg/m³ today, 8.8 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³, and DTU averaged 233.1 µg/m³, 15.5 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.

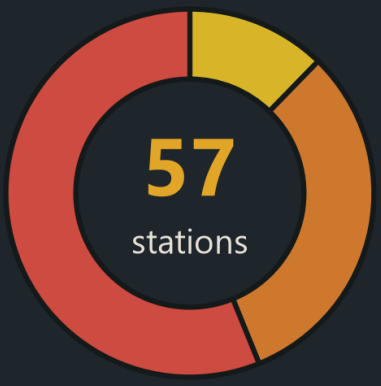
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

Delhi's PM10 averaged 245.9 µg/m³ today, 5.4 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 45 µg/m³, and Chandni Chowk averaged 380.5 µg/m³, 8.4 times it.

One average, and the spread it hides

All 57 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 count the same 57 stations by category. The lower panel counts them by the pollutant that set each figure. Zero counts are printed as zeros.

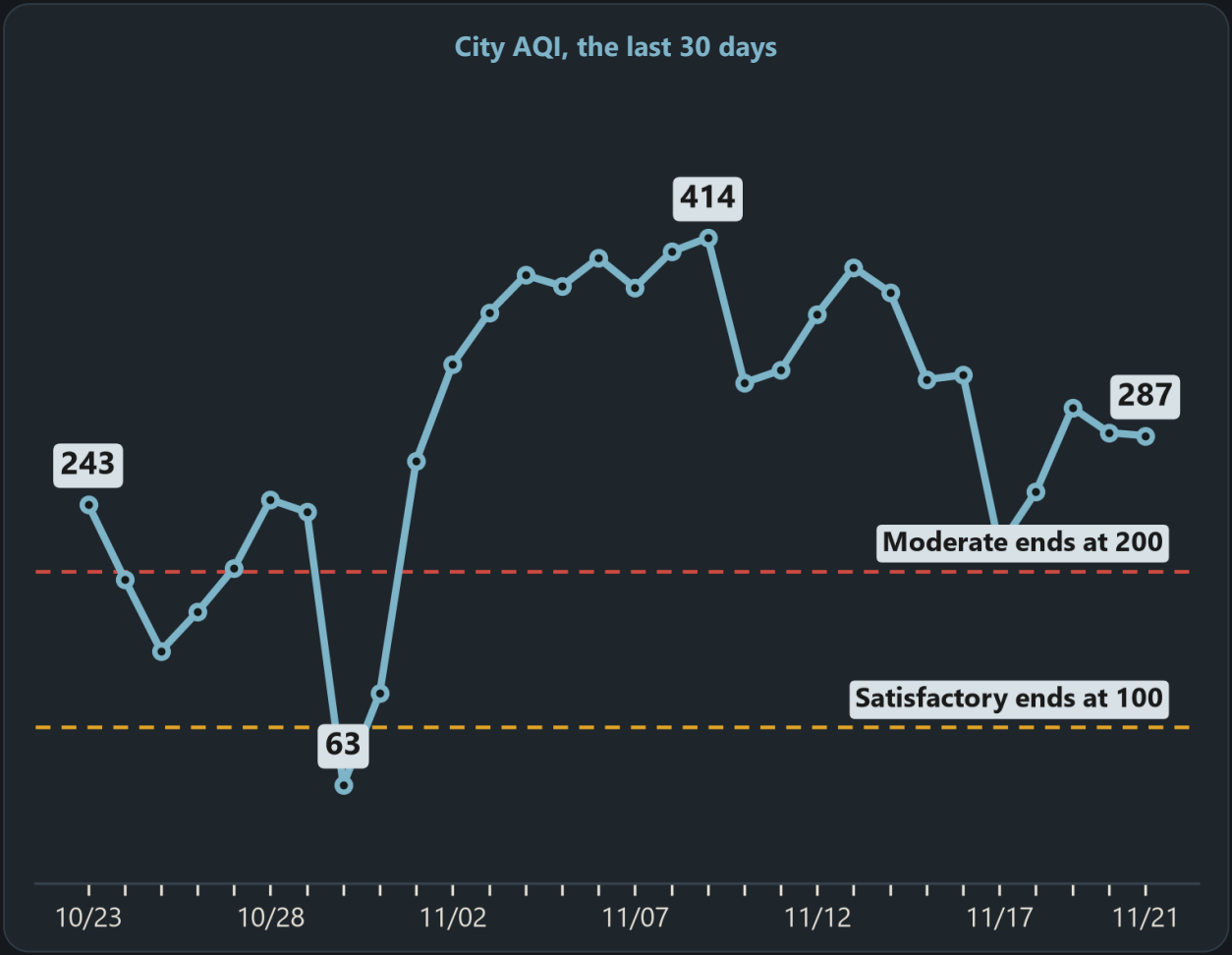
CAUTION Caution: the city headline is the mean of station AQIs, so one bad station can sit inside a Satisfactory average. A station's leading pollutant is the worst of its own sub-indices, not a ranking of how much of each was in the air.

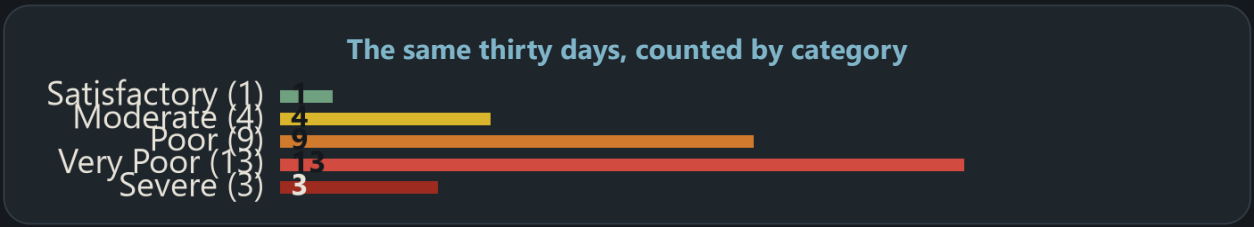
SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). The figures are on CPCB's documented formula (CPCB, "How is AQI calculated?"; CPCB AQI Calculator), and the city figure is the mean of station AQIs [1].

THE POINT

DTU read 387, Very Poor, set by PM2.5, on a day the city average read Poor.

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 21 November 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 243, on 57 reporting stations, and today it reads 287, on 57; in between it stood as high as 414, on 9 November.

Against yesterday: the one-day move

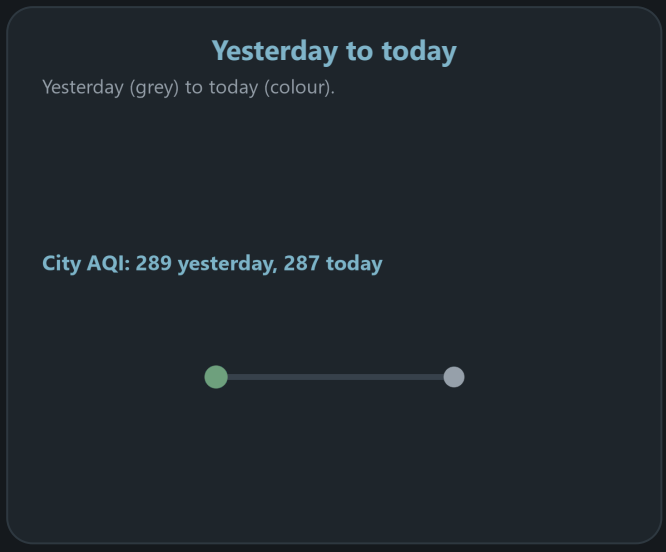
-2.7

points on yesterday

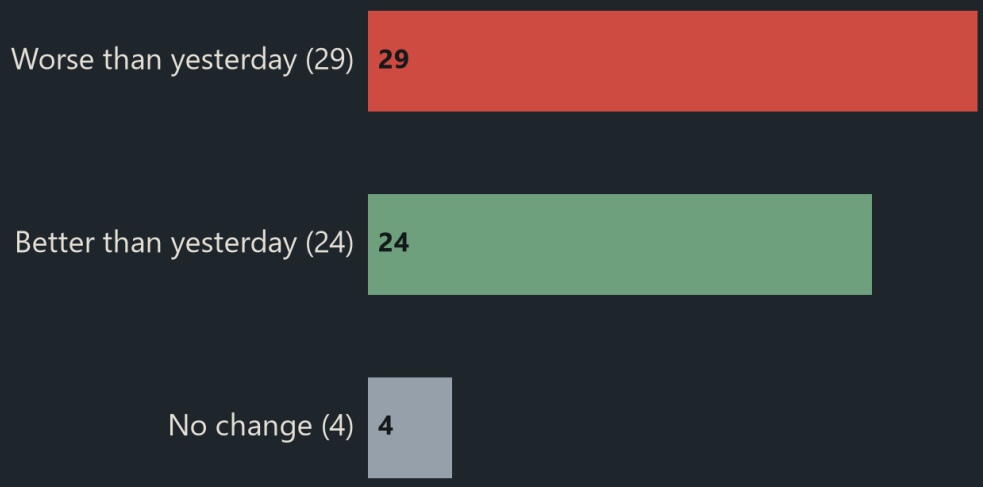
From 289 to 287. On the 57 stations that reported on both days, the 95 per cent interval runs -13.1 to 7.2 points, so the honest reading is level, not better.

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; green marks an improvement. 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 21 November 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.

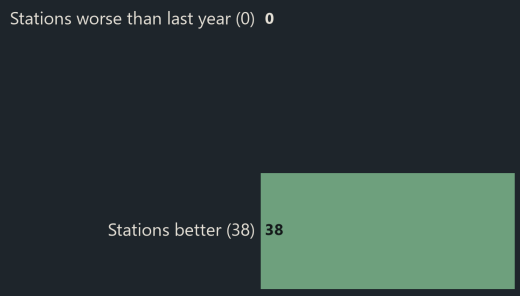
Against last year: the observed reading

−100.3

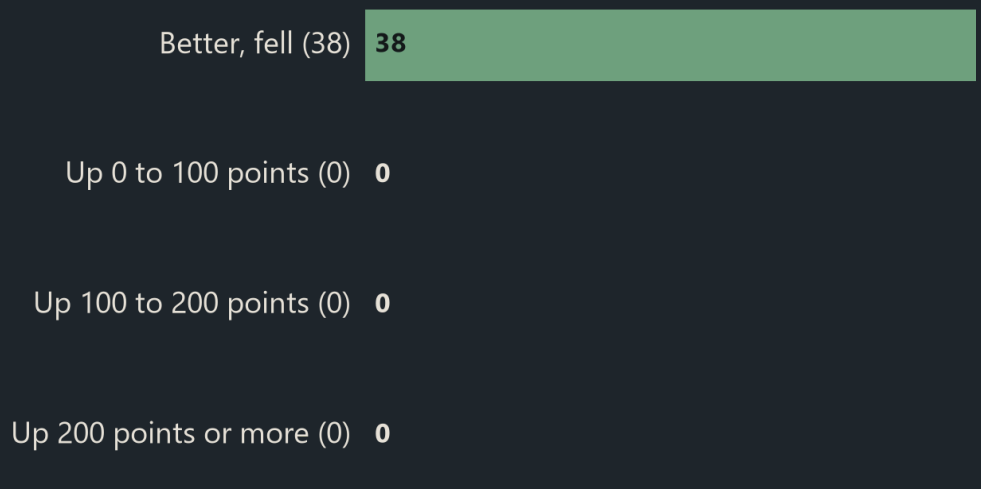
points on last year, observed

Today 287 across 57 stations. The year is judged on the 38 matched stations: 294 today against 394, the mean of the same date ±7 days of 2025 at those stations. The interval runs -114.8 to -84.1 points.

The station split behind the average



How the 38 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 38 read lower, by a median of 101.1 points, so the average hides both. Weighted by population, today reads 291 across the 54 stations with a mapped zone; on the 38 stations matched with last year it reads 301 against 394, a change of -93.2 points.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 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

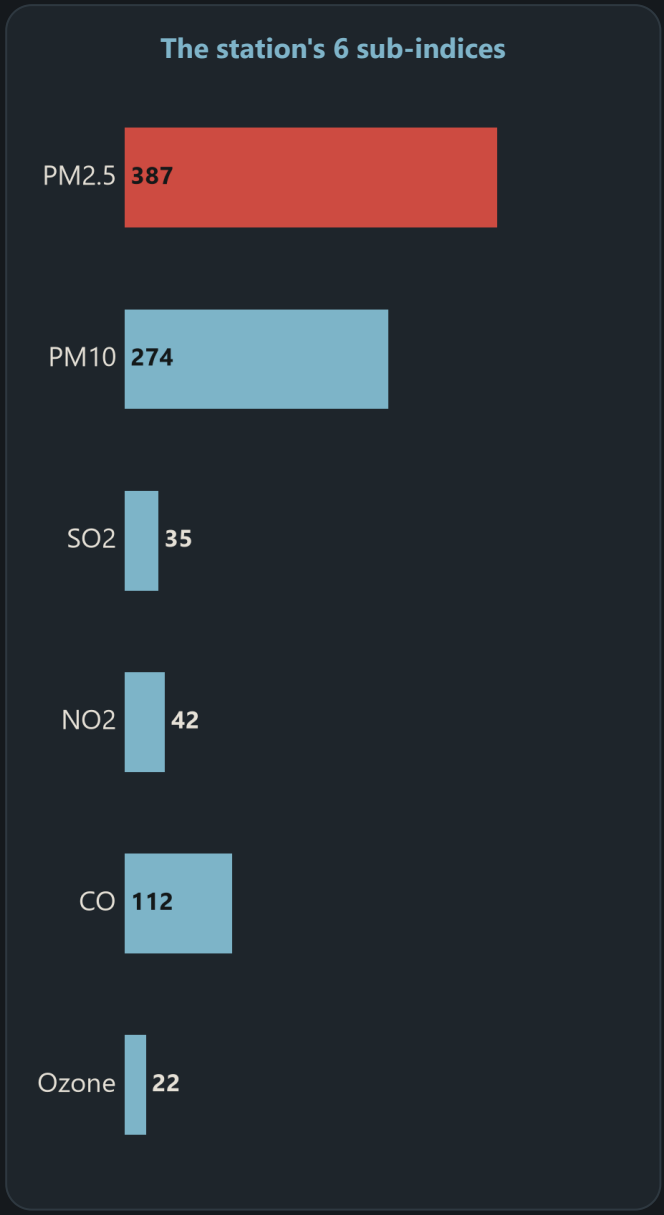
One city average stands for the whole of Delhi, while DTU read 387, Very Poor; that station's day is on page 11.

The worst station in the city today

387

DTU, Delhi (CPCB)

Very Poor, set by PM2.5. Its PM2.5 averaged 233.1 µg/m³ over the 24 hours to 4 PM, 15.5 times the WHO 24-hour guideline of 15 µg/m³. Last year this station read 424 on the mean of the same date ±7 days, so the change is -36.9 points. 8.4 lakh people live within 4 km of this monitor. Within 500 m of the monitor, 79% of the land is built up and 18% 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 21 November 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

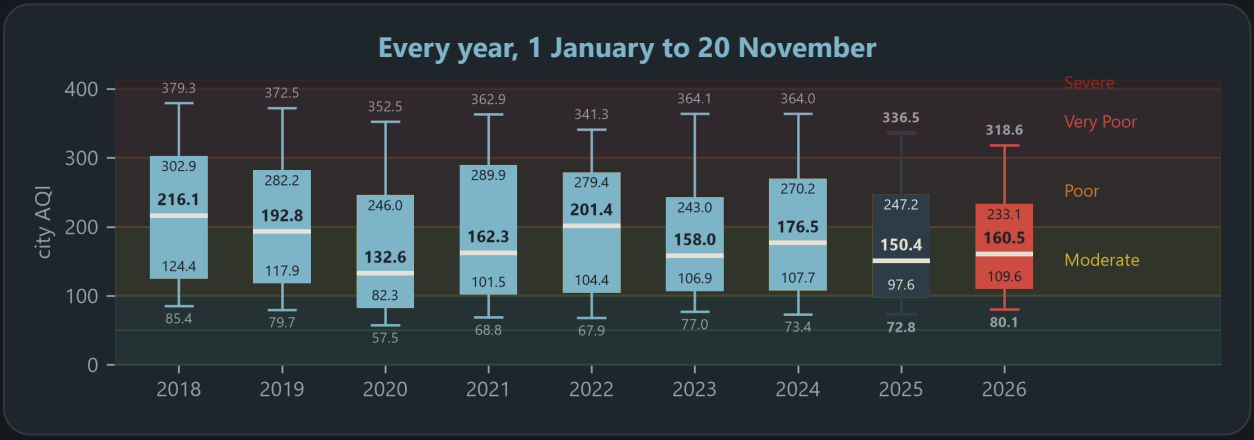
While the city averaged Poor, DTU sat at 387, Very Poor, and 8.4 lakh people live within 4 km of it. An average is not an experience.

The year, from its best days to its worst

160.5

the middle day of 2026, against 150.4 in 2025

On the same 324 complete dates, 1 January to 20 November, the best tenth of days reads 80.1 against 72.8 and the worst tenth 318.6 against 336.5. The days at or below 200 went from 211 to 219.





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 324 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

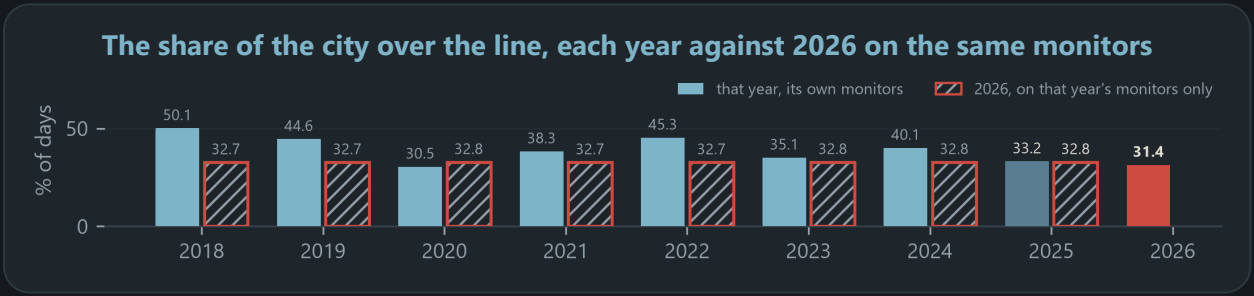
The cleaner days of 2026 have been the dirtiest for these dates since 2019: the lower quarter stands at 109.6, against 97.6 in 2025 and 117.9 in 2019.

How much of the city was above AQI 200

31.4%

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

That is 14.3 of 45.0 reporting stations, against 33.2 per cent over the same dates last year, a change of -1.8 points on an interval of -8.3 to +4.0, so it is unchanged inside its margin. On 2025's own monitors, 2026 reads 32.8 per cent against 33.2 in 2025.





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 shows how much of the city was over the line. Beneath it the amber line counts the monitors reporting at all, and the bars count how many of those read above 200. In the upper chart the outlined bar beside each year is 2026 measured on only that year's monitors, so each pair compares the same stations.

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 14 of the 45 reporting monitors, 31.4 per cent, sat above 200 on the particle AQI.

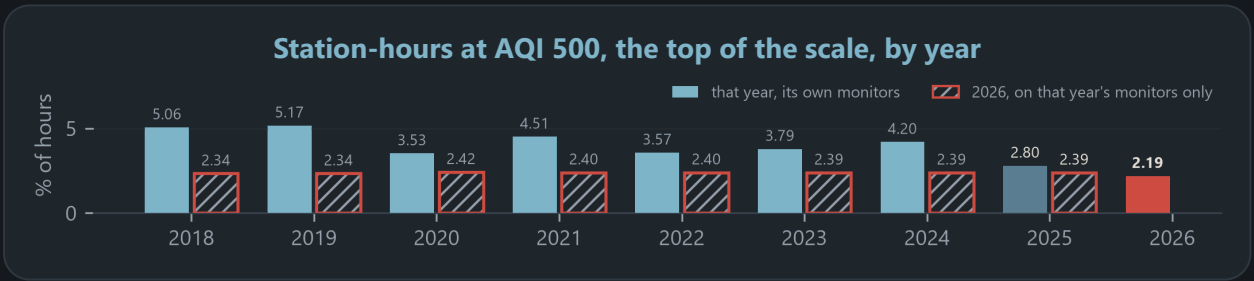
How many station-hours were above AQI 200, and at 500

32.8%

of station-hours above AQI 200 in 2026

Against 33.6 per cent over the same dates in 2025. On 2025's own monitors, 2026 reads 34.1 per cent against 33.6, and at AQI 500 2.39 against 2.80. 7,634 station-hours in 2026 stood at AQI 500, 2.19 per cent of all hours measured.





READING Reading: a station-hour is one monitor's reading for one hour. Each pair of bars shows the share of all station-hours in that year that stood above AQI 200 (upper chart) or at AQI 500 (lower chart). The solid bar is that year on its own monitors; the outlined bar beside it is 2026 measured on only those same monitors, so a growing network cannot move the comparison.

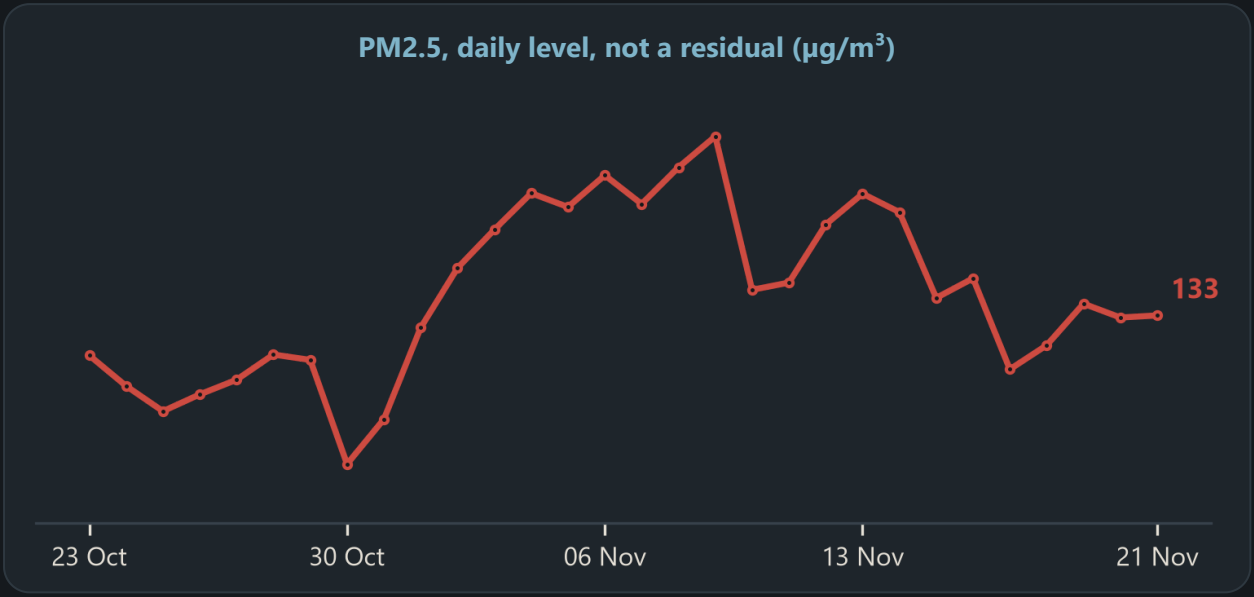
CAUTION Caution: each hour is put on CPCB's AQI scale from that hour's own PM2.5 and PM10 readings, the higher of the two. CPCB's breakpoints are written for 24-hour averages, so an hour above 200 is a reading on the scale and no breach of the daily standard. AQI 500 is the top of the scale: PM2.5 at 380 or PM10 at 510 micrograms or more. The same 324 dates are used in every year, and no margin of error has yet been computed for these shares.

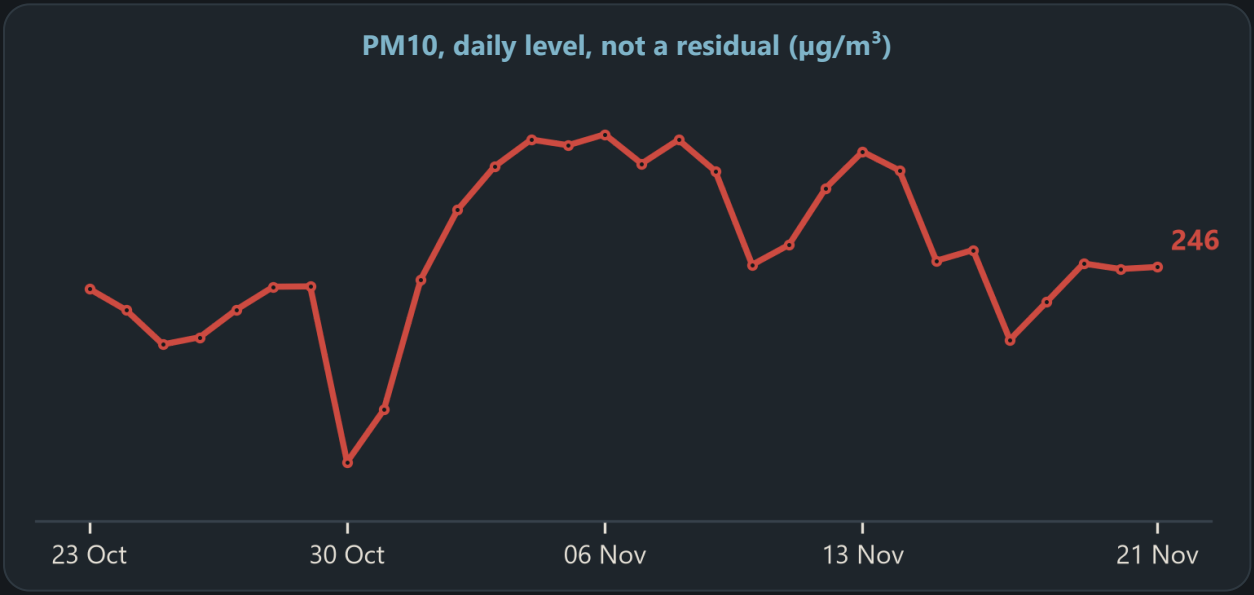
SOURCE Computed from the CREA compilation of the CPCB hourly record, CPCB 2014 sub-index, calendar day, city figure the mean of station AQIs; PM basis, the higher of the PM2.5 and PM10 sub-indices [1].

THE POINT

In 2026 so far, 32.8 per cent of all monitor-hours in Delhi read above AQI 200, and 7,634 monitor-hours read 500, the top of the scale.

Thirty days of measured levels: PM2.5 and PM10



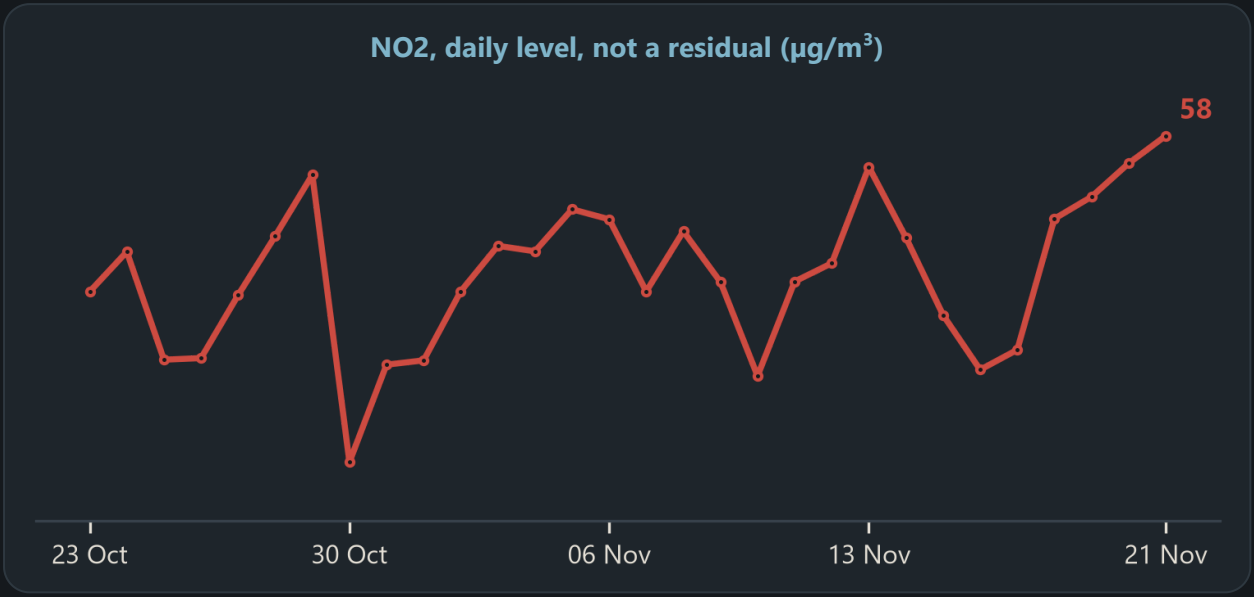


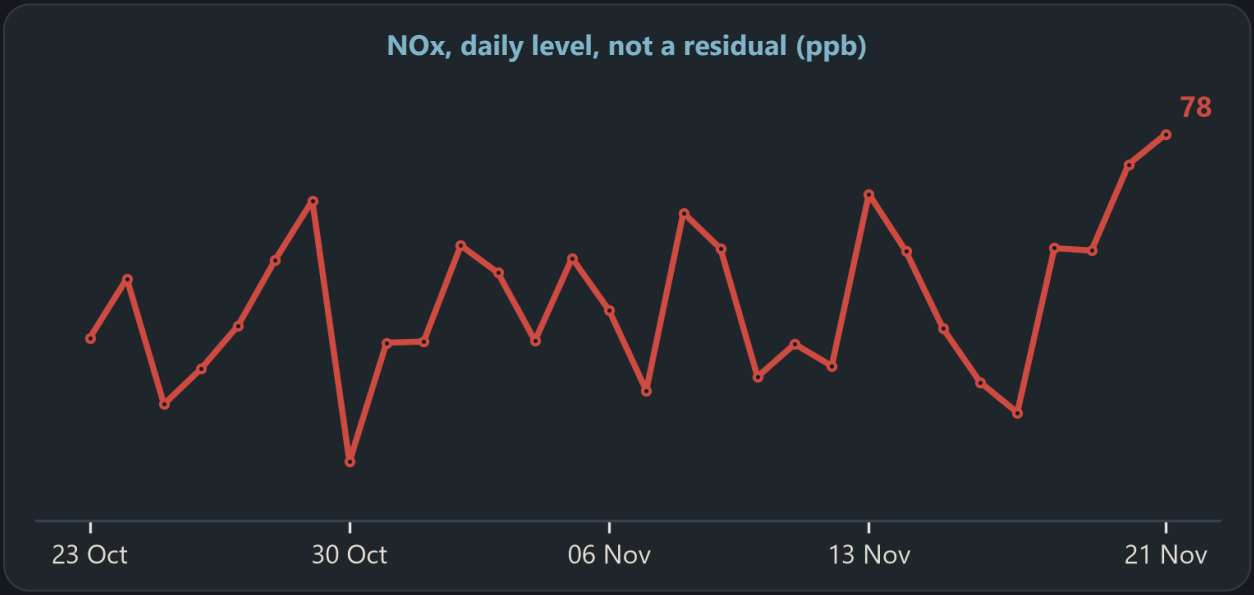
READING	Reading: these are the city's measured daily levels for the last thirty days, as the monitors recorded them; higher means more pollution that day. Gaps mark days when too few stations had sixteen of the 24 hourly readings.
CAUTION	Caution: 24-hour city means to 4 PM, the average of every station with sixteen or more hourly readings, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.
SOURCE	CPCB's hourly station readings for the thirty days to 21 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Each day's city figure is the mean of the stations with sixteen or more of the 24 hourly readings to 4 PM [1].

THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's PM2.5 read 133 µg/m³ and PM10 245.9 µg/m³.

Thirty days of measured levels: NO2 and NOx



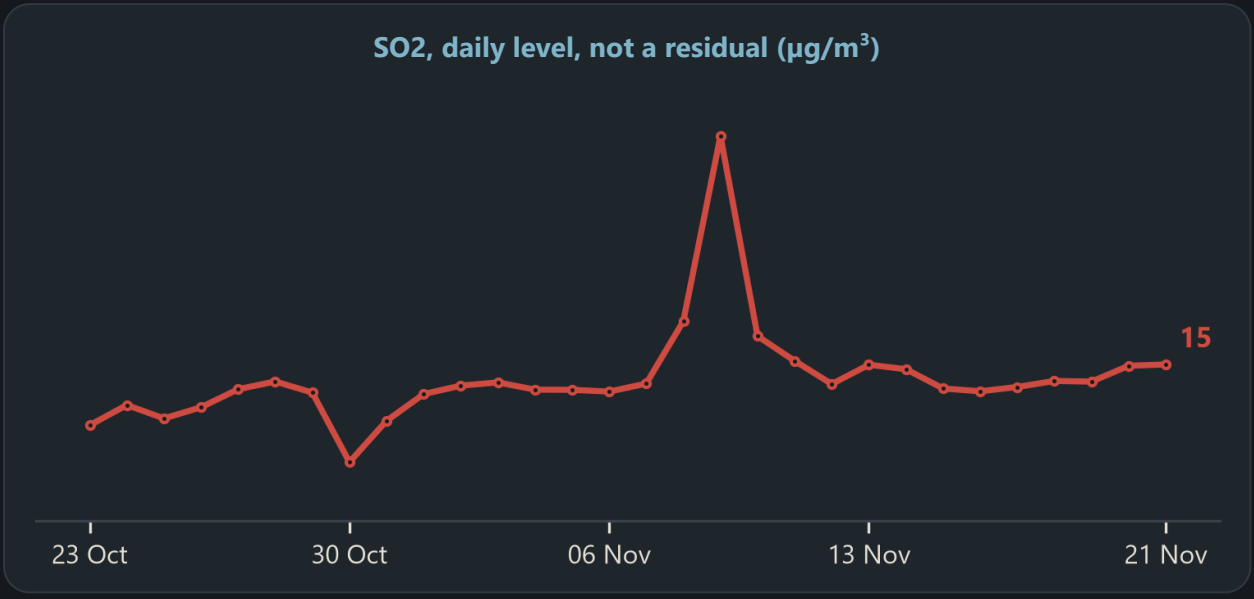


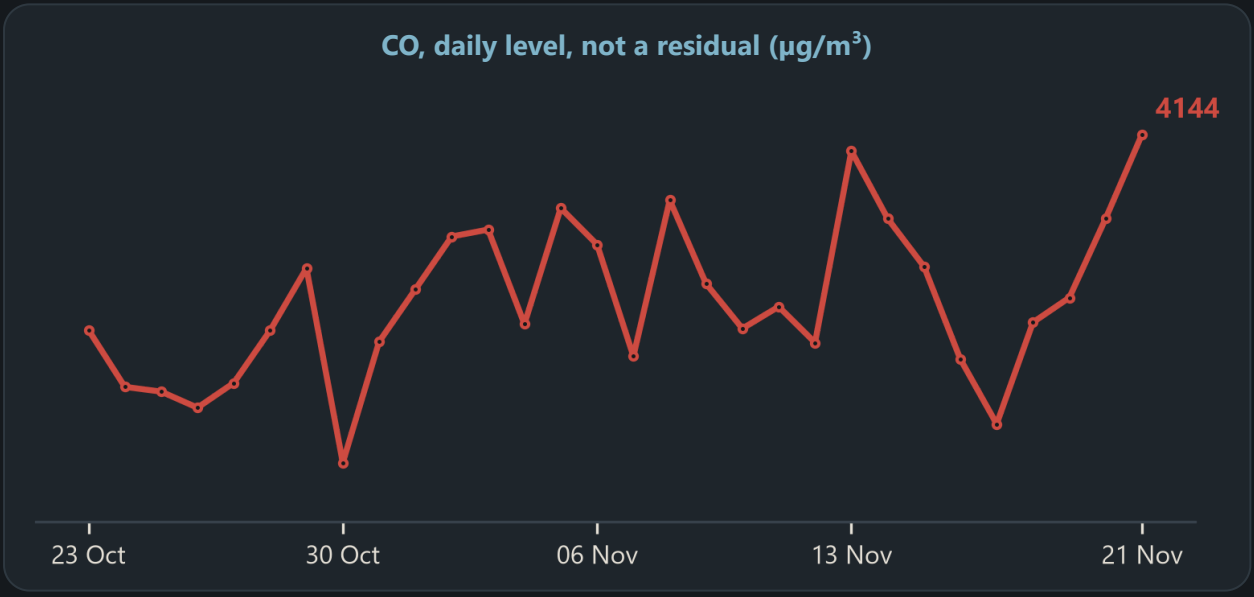
READING	Reading: these are the city's measured daily levels for the last thirty days, as the monitors recorded them; higher means more pollution that day. Gaps mark days when too few stations had sixteen of the 24 hourly readings.
CAUTION	Caution: 24-hour city means to 4 PM, the average of every station with sixteen or more hourly readings, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.
SOURCE	CPCB's hourly station readings for the thirty days to 21 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Each day's city figure is the mean of the stations with sixteen or more of the 24 hourly readings to 4 PM [1].

THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's nitrogen dioxide read 58.1 µg/m³ and nitrogen oxides 77.9 ppb.

Thirty days of measured levels: SO2 and CO



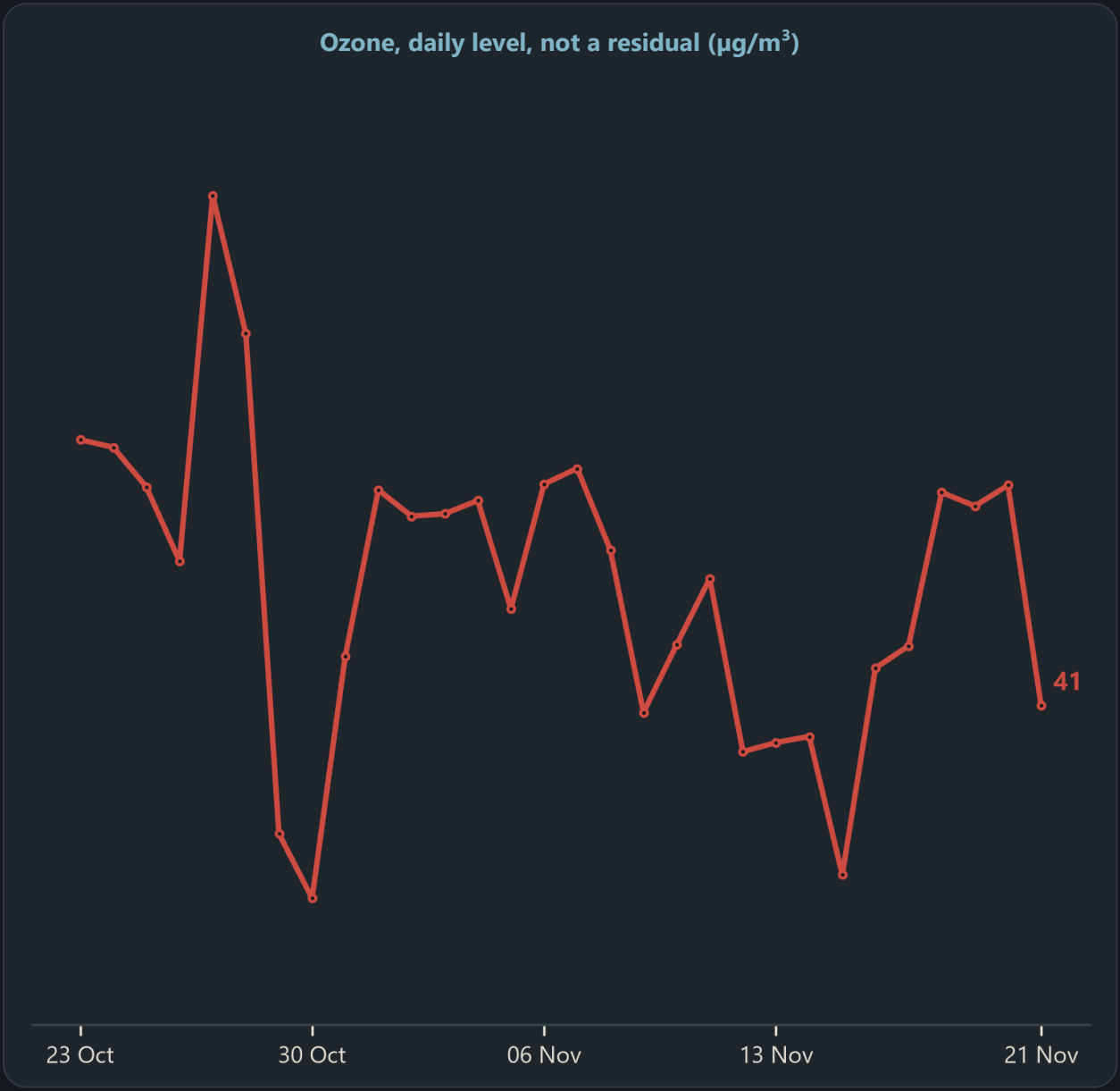


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THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's sulphur dioxide read 14.6 µg/m³ and carbon monoxide 4143.7 µg/m³ on its 8-hour maximum.

Thirty days of measured levels: Ozone



READING Reading: these are the city's measured daily levels for the last thirty days, as the monitors recorded them; higher means more pollution that day. Gaps mark days when too few stations had sixteen of the 24 hourly readings.

CAUTION Caution: 24-hour city means to 4 PM, the average of every station with sixteen or more hourly readings, except CO and Ozone, which are 8-hour maxima; NOx is in ppb.

SOURCE CPCB's hourly station readings for the thirty days to 21 November 2026, compiled from CPCB's CCR portal by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA). Each day's city figure is the mean of the stations with sixteen or more of the 24 hourly readings to 4 PM [1].

THE POINT

On the latest day, as measured, the city's ozone read 41.5 µg/m³ on its 8-hour maximum.

Who the monitoring network reaches

2.2 km

from the typical resident to the nearest monitor

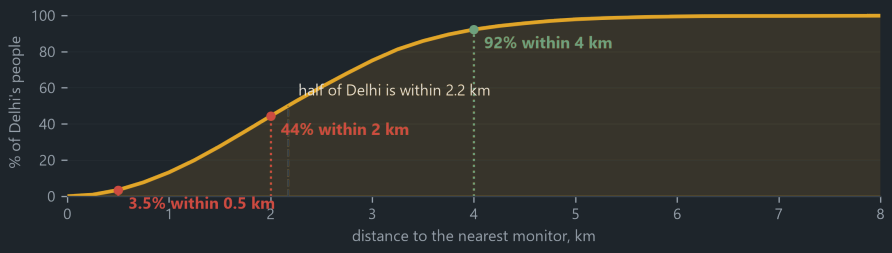
Within 4 km live 92 per cent of Delhi's people, within 2 km 44 per cent, and within 500 m only 3.5 per cent. The map holds 55 monitors in 53 zones; 57 monitors reported today. 33 of the 53 zones stretch past our chosen 4 km proximity threshold, informed by US EPA neighbourhood-scale guidance.

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.

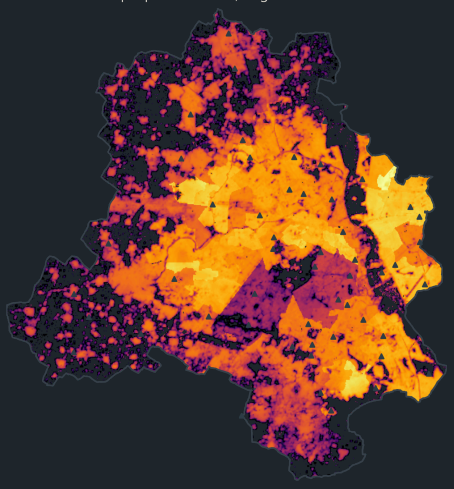
THE POINT

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

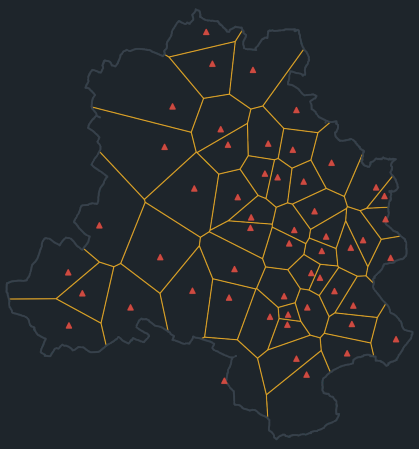
Where the people are

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 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

1.92 crore

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

That is 84.7 per cent of Delhi, living around the 50 monitors that read Poor or worse. DTU was worst at 387, and 8.4 lakh people live within 4 km of it. This counts people near the monitors, not measured individual exposure.

Today, Poor or worse

DTU	387 · 8.4 lakh
North Campus, DU	383 · 10.0 lakh
Chandni Chowk	367 · 13.4 lakh
Punjabi Bagh	363 · 16.9 lakh
Sirifort	357 · 9.7 lakh

Also Poor or worse: 43 more, every one named in the station table.

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.

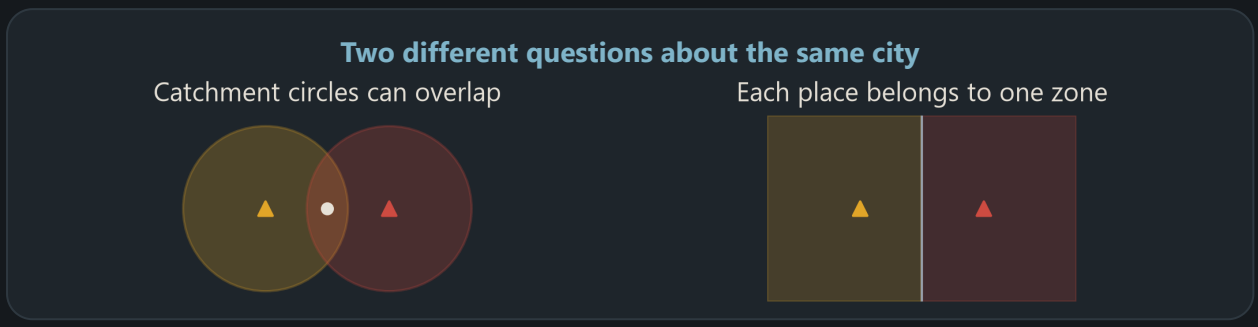
CAUTION Caution: these circles overlap, heavily at 4 km. Added up they return about twice Delhi's population, so read the column one monitor at a time. It has no valid total. Living within 4 km is not the same as breathing that exact reading. Ghoga, Lodhi Road and Tikri Kalan have no mapped location, 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 DTU read 387, Very Poor, set by PM2.5, and 8.4 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	PM2.5 µg/m³	PM10 µg/m³
1	DTU	387	Very Poor	PM2.5	234	324
2	North Campus	383	Very Poor	PM2.5	227	363
3	Chandni Chowk	367	Very Poor	PM2.5	206	386
4	Punjabi Bagh	363	Very Poor	PM2.5	202	322
5	Sirifort	357	Very Poor	PM2.5	193	311
6	CRRI Mathura Road	352	Very Poor	PM2.5	187	347
7	Commonwealth Sports Complex	351	Very Poor	PM2.5	186	298
8	Mundka	349	Very Poor	PM2.5	183	342
9	Wazirpur	346	Very Poor	PM2.5	179	374
10	Burari Crossing	345	Very Poor	PM2.5	178	288
11	ITO	345	Very Poor	PM2.5	178	258
12	Jahangirpuri	342	Very Poor	PM2.5	174	332
13	NSUT Jaffarpur	342	Very Poor	PM2.5	174	237
14	Pusa (IITM)	337	Very Poor	PM2.5	167	250
15	Shadipur	336	Very Poor	PM2.5	166	231
16	Nangloi	332	Very Poor	PM2.5	160	359
17	Bawana	332	Very Poor	PM2.5	161	225
18	Vivek Vihar	331	Very Poor	PM2.5	160	278
19	Ashok Vihar	327	Very Poor	PM2.5	154	273

READING Reading: all 57 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. The last two columns are the measured 24-hour average PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations in µg/m³ over the same window.

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's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 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 19 stations on this page was rated Good. The highest here is DTU at 387.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant	PM2.5 µg/m³	PM10 µg/m³
20	Nehru Nagar	327	Very Poor	PM2.5	155	248
21	Anand Vihar	327	Very Poor	PM2.5	154	305
22	Talkatora Garden	325	Very Poor	PM2.5	152	227
23	Rohini	322	Very Poor	PM2.5	148	268
24	IIT Delhi	321	Very Poor	PM2.5	146	233
25	Patparganj	318	Very Poor	PM2.5	143	248
26	Sonia Vihar	315	Very Poor	PM2.5	138	210
27	Karala	312	Very Poor	PM2.5	134	215
28	Chhawla	311	Very Poor	PM2.5	133	312
29	JNU	311	Very Poor	PM2.5	133	205
30	Tikri Kalan	307	Very Poor	PM2.5	128	330
31	R K Puram	306	Very Poor	PM2.5	127	178
32	Okhla Phase-2	306	Very Poor	PM2.5	126	231
33	NIH Narela	287	Poor	PM2.5	116	195
34	Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	284	Poor	PM2.5	115	188
35	Badarpur	282	Poor	PM2.5	115	206
36	Vasundhara Enclave	273	Poor	PM10	103	322
37	Aya Nagar	267	Poor	PM2.5	110	224
38	Mandir Marg	266	Poor	PM2.5	110	159

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's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 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 19 stations on this page was rated Good.

Every reporting station, continued

#	Station	AQI	Category	Main pollutant	PM2.5 µg/m³	PM10 µg/m³
39	Burari	264	Poor	PM2.5	109	233
40	Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range	256	Poor	PM2.5	107	161
41	IHBAS	246	Poor	PM2.5	104	186
42	Dwarka-Sector 8	234	Poor	PM2.5	100	189
43	Najafgarh	233	Poor	PM2.5	100	136
44	Ghummanhera	230	Poor	PM2.5	99	277
45	Ghoga	229	Poor	PM2.5	98	192
46	Alipur	227	Poor	PM2.5	98	179
47	Jharoda Kalan	221	Poor	PM10	53	270
48	Narela	220	Poor	PM2.5	96	177
49	Pusa (DPCC)	214	Poor	PM2.5	94	153
50	IGI Airport (T3)	212	Poor	PM10	79	261
51	Sri Aurobindo Marg	195	Moderate	PM2.5	88	218
52	IGNOU Maidan Garhi	180	Moderate	PM10	no data	220
53	NSIT Dwarka	172	Moderate	PM10	53	208
54	Maidan Garhi	166	Moderate	PM2.5	80	128
55	IMD Lodhi Road	166	Moderate	PM2.5	80	190
56	Lodhi Road	162	Moderate	PM10	65	193
57	Cantonment Area	121	Moderate	CO	45	no data

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's hourly station readings for the 24 hours to 4 PM on 21 November 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

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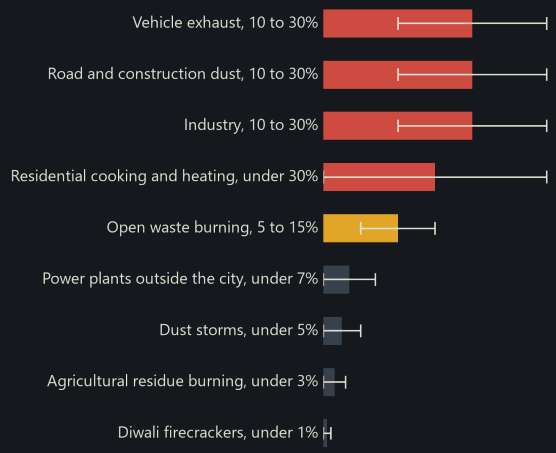
What the daily figures cannot say alone

The year behind today

Over the twelve months to 21 November 2026, Delhi's mean PM2.5 was 90.8 micrograms per cubic metre, which is 18.1 times the WHO annual guideline and 2.2 times India's annual standard, computed over 15,996 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 90.9 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 29. 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: 57 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 38 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 21 November 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 21 November 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. 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	286.6
CPCB's category	Poor
Stations in the mean	57
Highest station	DTU, 387

The window is the 24 hours ending 4 PM on 21 November 2026. The city figure is the mean of the AQIs of the 57 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 21 November 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 21 November 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 21 November 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.