

● Good ● Satisfactory ● Moderate



# CREA

Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

## Monthly ambient air quality snapshot for India

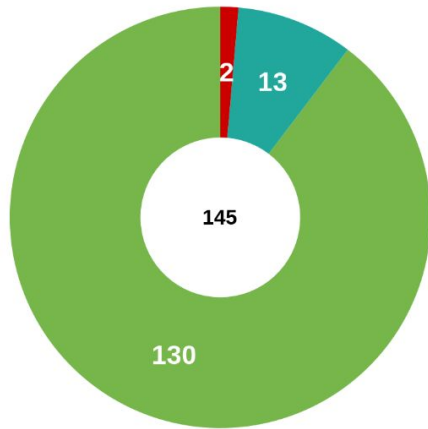
*August 2025*

## Key highlights

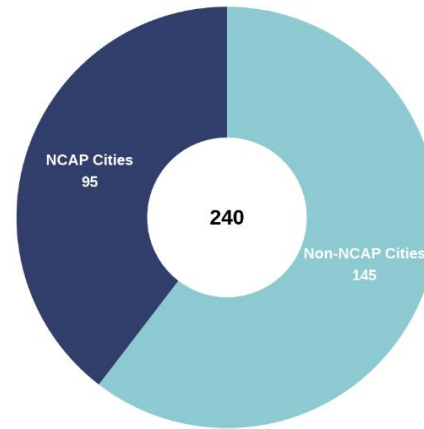
- **Compliance:** In August 2025, **238 out of 240 cities** with more than 80% of the days with continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) data available **recorded PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations below India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** of 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. **Only 54 cities complied with the World Health Organization's (WHO) daily safe guideline** concentration of 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - **NCAP cities:** The monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels in only one National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) city (out of 95 cities with more than 80% of days with data) surpassed India's daily NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, while 78 cities exceeded the WHO's daily guideline.
  - **Non-NCAP cities:** Among the 145 non-NCAP cities with over 80% of days with CAAQMS data, 108 cities reported monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels above the WHO daily guideline. Only one city exceeded the daily NAAQS.
- **AOI category:** In August 2025, **the number of cities with 'Good' (0-30 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) air quality stood at 204. Meanwhile, cities experiencing 'Satisfactory' (31-60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) air quality were recorded at 34. Additionally, two cities reported 'Moderate' (61-90 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) air quality.** This was broadly similar to July 2025, when only 208 cities had 'Good' air quality; 25 were in the 'Satisfactory' category, and three cities fell in the 'Moderate' category. **Clean air across cities in August can be attributed to the monsoon season, which helps wash pollutants from the ambient air.**
- **Most polluted city:** **Byrnihat ranked as the most polluted city in India in August 2025, recording a monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of 66 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.** It exceeded the daily NAAQS limit of 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup> on 83% of the days that month.
  - Sri Ganganagar and Gummidipoondi were the second and third most polluted cities, with monthly averages of 64 and 58 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively.
  - **Delhi recorded a monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of 32 µg/m<sup>3</sup>** and ranked 27th at the national level.
- **Cleanest city:** **Shillong, in the state of Meghalaya, was the cleanest city in India** during August, with a monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> of 3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- **Megacities:** All megacities, such as Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bangalore had monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> below NAAQS.

# Number of cities vs frequency of days with PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration above NAAQS and WHO guidelines – August 2025

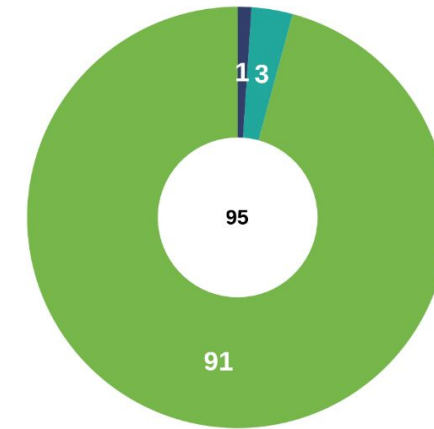
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities  
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



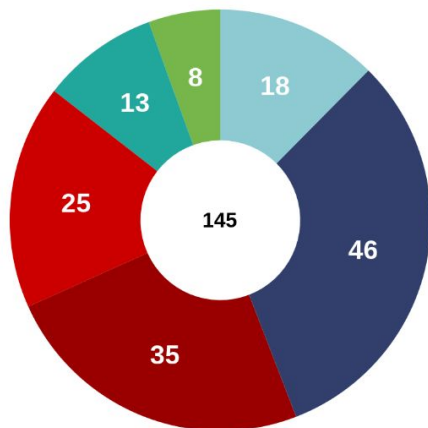
Total # of cities with >80% of the days  
with CAAQMS data



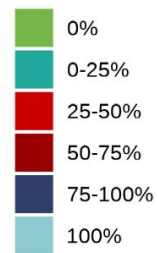
Categorisation of NCAP cities  
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



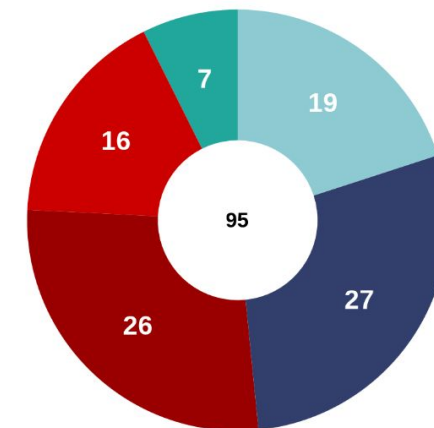
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities  
against compliance to WHO guidelines



% of days above standard



Categorisation of NCAP cities  
against compliance to WHO guidelines

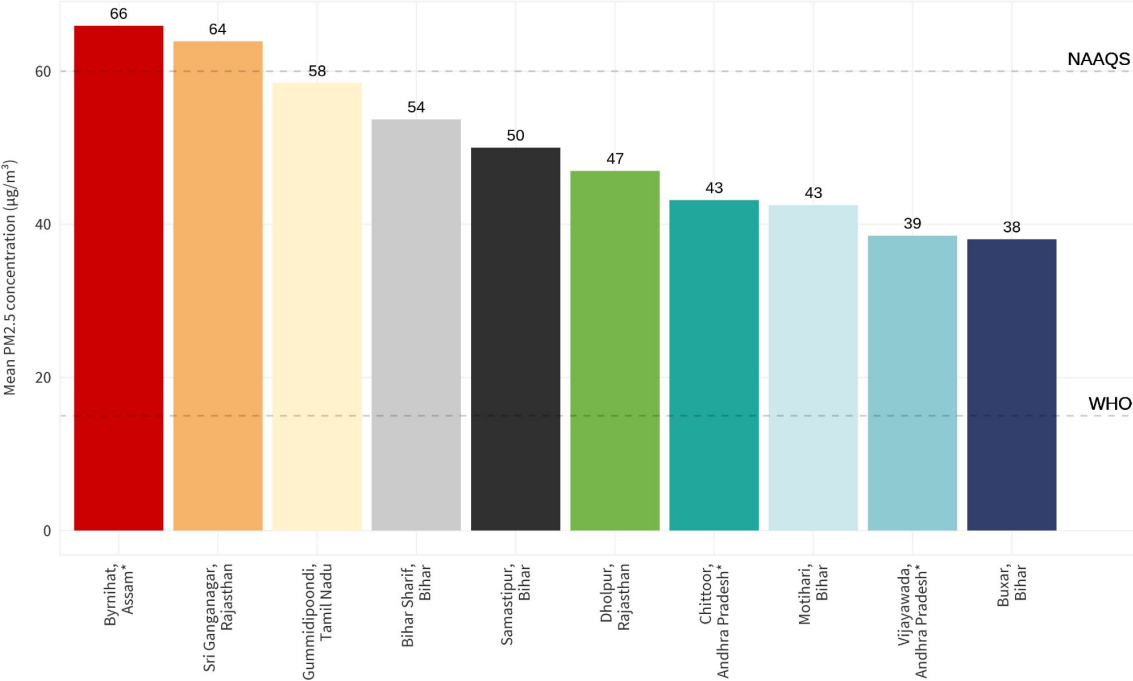


# Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration – August 2025

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM <sub>2.5</sub> (µg/m³) – August 2025							
City	Monitored days	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Byrnihat	30	0	5	25	0	0	0
Sri Ganganagar	31	5	12	7	5	2	0
Gummidipoondi	31	0	24	6	0	1	0
Bihar Sharif	31	0	31	0	0	0	0
Samastipur	30	8	16	5	0	1	0
Dholpur	31	14	8	5	2	2	0
Chittoor	31	0	31	0	0	0	0
Motihari	30	2	26	2	0	0	0
Vijayawada	31	0	31	0	0	0	0
Buxar	27	0	27	0	0	0	0

Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration - August 2025

\* indicates NCAP cities

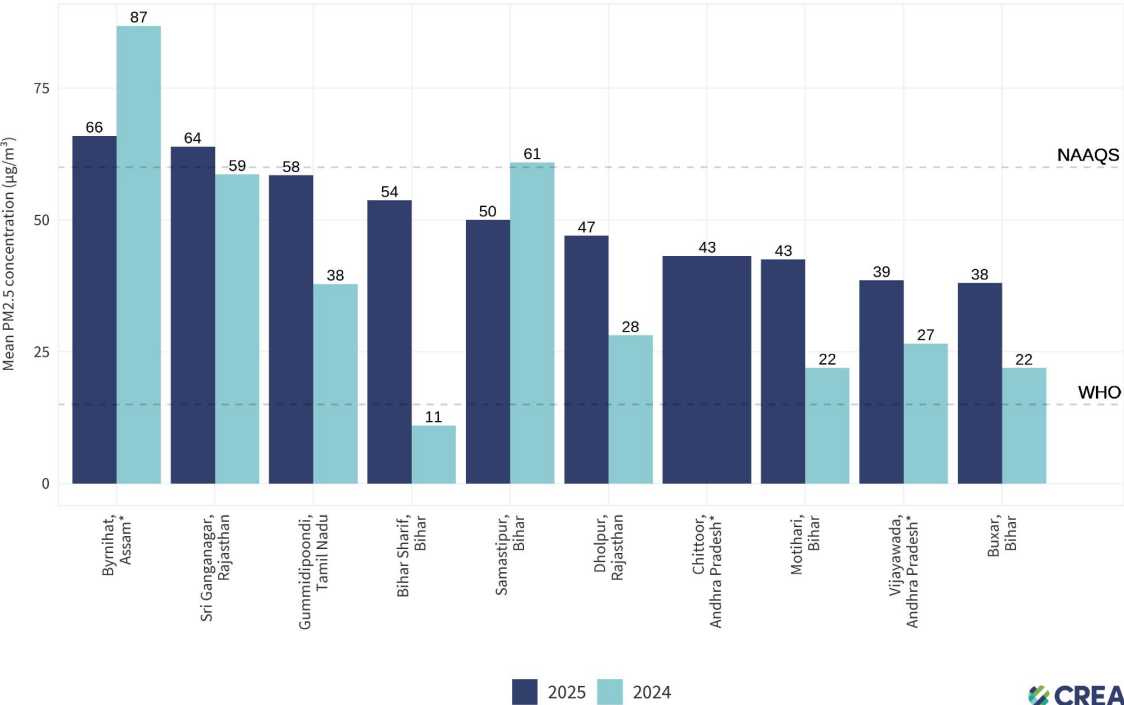


# Status of PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration in August 2024 for top 10 most polluted cities in August 2025 across India

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM <sub>2.5</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) – August 2024							
City	Monitored days	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Bihar Sharif	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Buxar	31	29	2	0	0	0	0
Byrnihat	30	0	11	7	5	7	0
Dholpur	31	21	8	1	1	0	0
Gummidi poondi	31	7	24	0	0	0	0
Motihari	31	25	6	0	0	0	0
Samastipur	30	17	4	4	1	4	1
Sri Ganganagar	31	3	17	8	1	2	0
Vijayawada	31	25	6	0	0	0	0

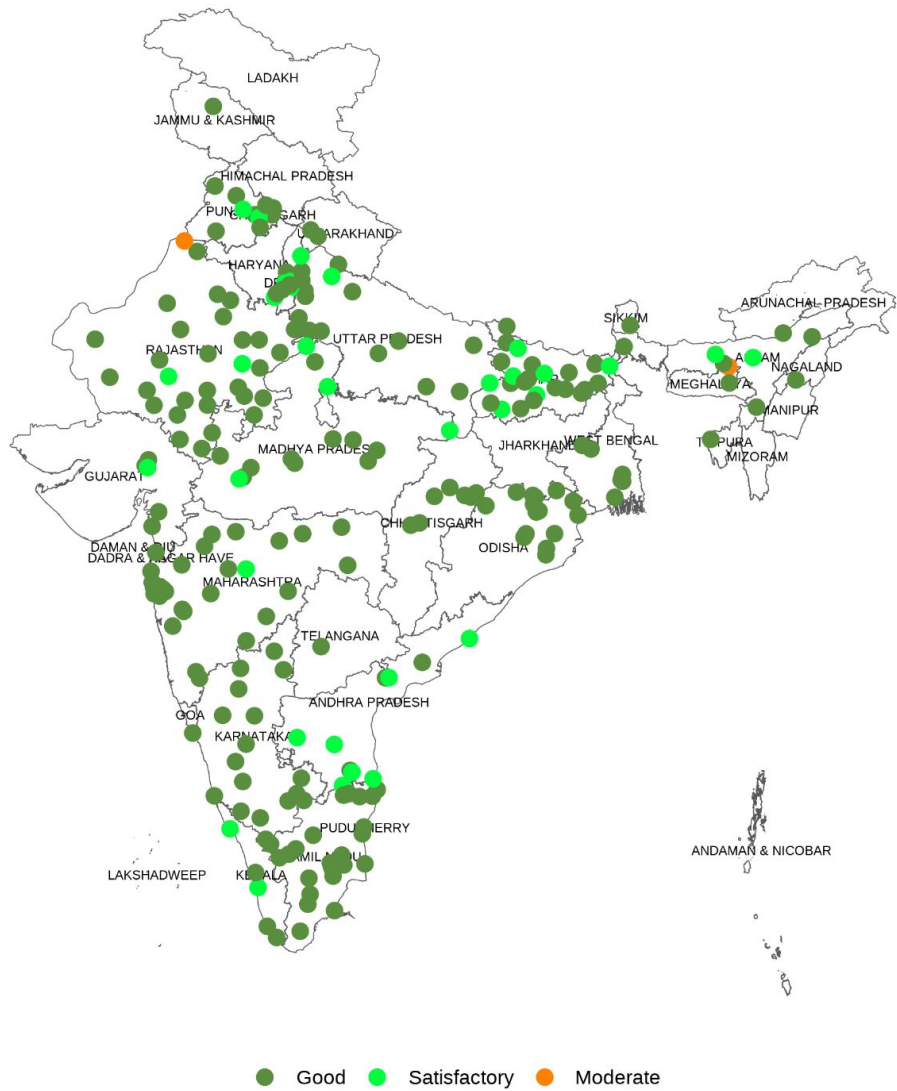
Year-on-year change of top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM2.5 concentration - August 2025

\* indicates NCAP cities



Note: Chittoor data is not available for 2024

# Distribution of cities by PM2.5 air quality index (AQI) based on monthly average PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations – August 2025



State/UT	Number of cities in AQI category (PM <sub>2.5</sub> µg/m <sup>3</sup> )				
	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very Poor (121-250)
Andhra Pradesh	3	6	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0
Assam	3	2	1	0	0
Bihar	17	7	0	0	0
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	8	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	5	1	0	0	0
Haryana	2	0	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	17	0	0	0	0
Kerala	3	2	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	10	2	0	0	0
Maharashtra	29	1	0	0	0
Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0
NCT of Delhi	0	1	0	0	0
Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0
Odisha	15	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0
Punjab	6	2	0	0	0
Rajasthan	28	4	1	0	0
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	23	1	0	0	0
Telangana	1	0	0	0	0
Tripura	1	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	15	5	0	0	0
Uttarakhand	3	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	7	0	0	0	0



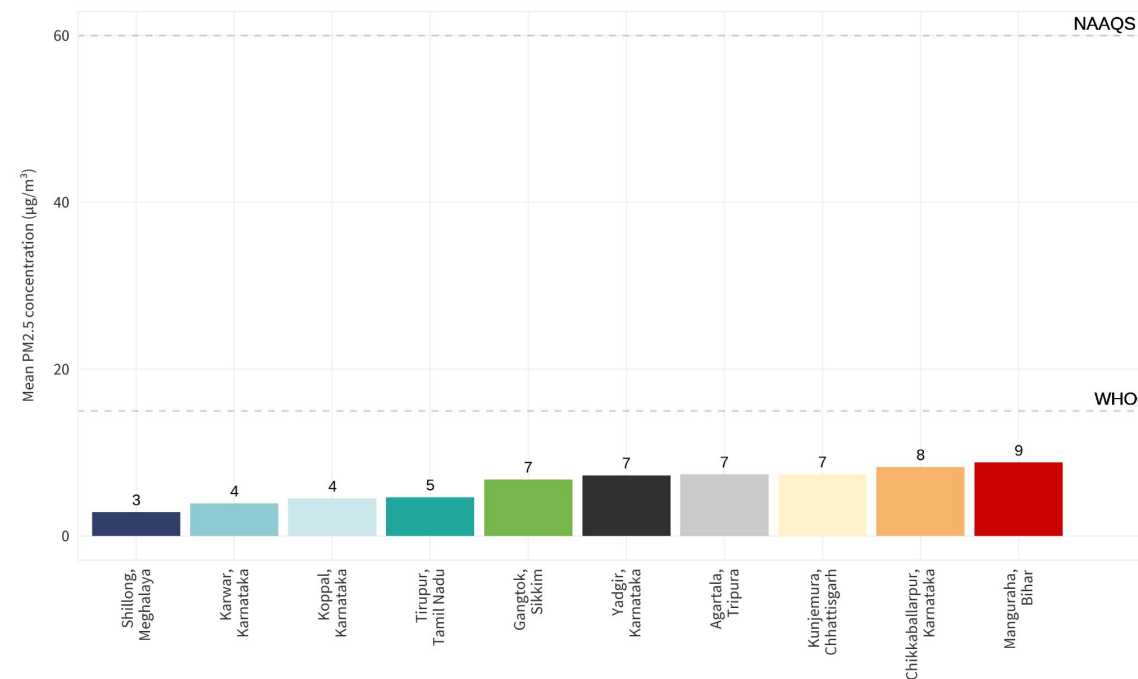
# Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration – August 2025

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM<sub>2.5</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) – August 2025

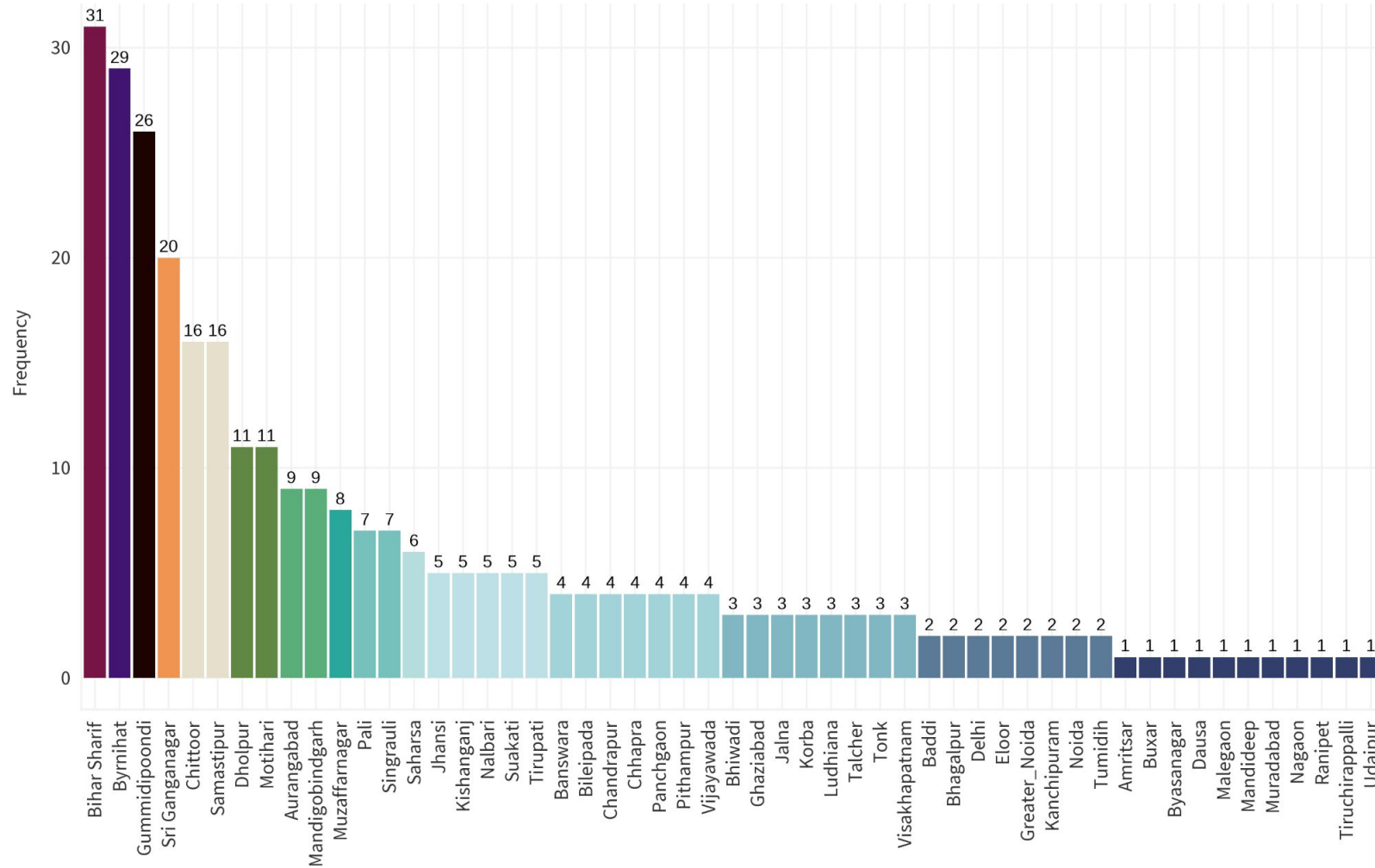
City	Monitored days	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Shillong	29	29	0	0	0	0	0
Karwar	28	28	0	0	0	0	0
Koppal	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Tirupur	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Gangtok	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Yadgir	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Agartala	28	28	0	0	0	0	0
Kunjemura	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Chikkaballapur	31	31	0	0	0	0	0
Manguraha	30	30	0	0	0	0	0

Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration – August 2025

\* indicates NCAAP cities



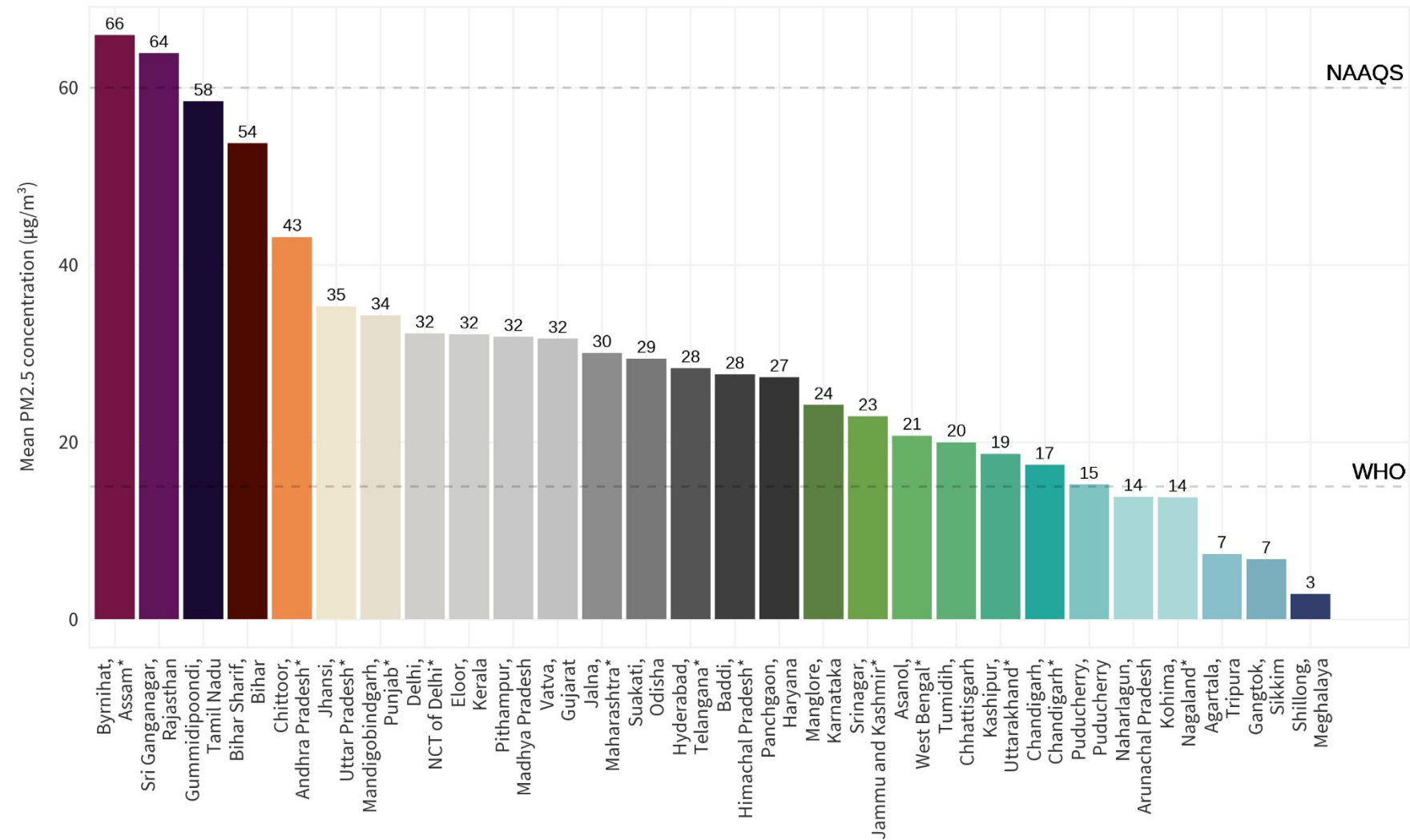
# Frequency of appearance of respective cities in top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration – August 2025





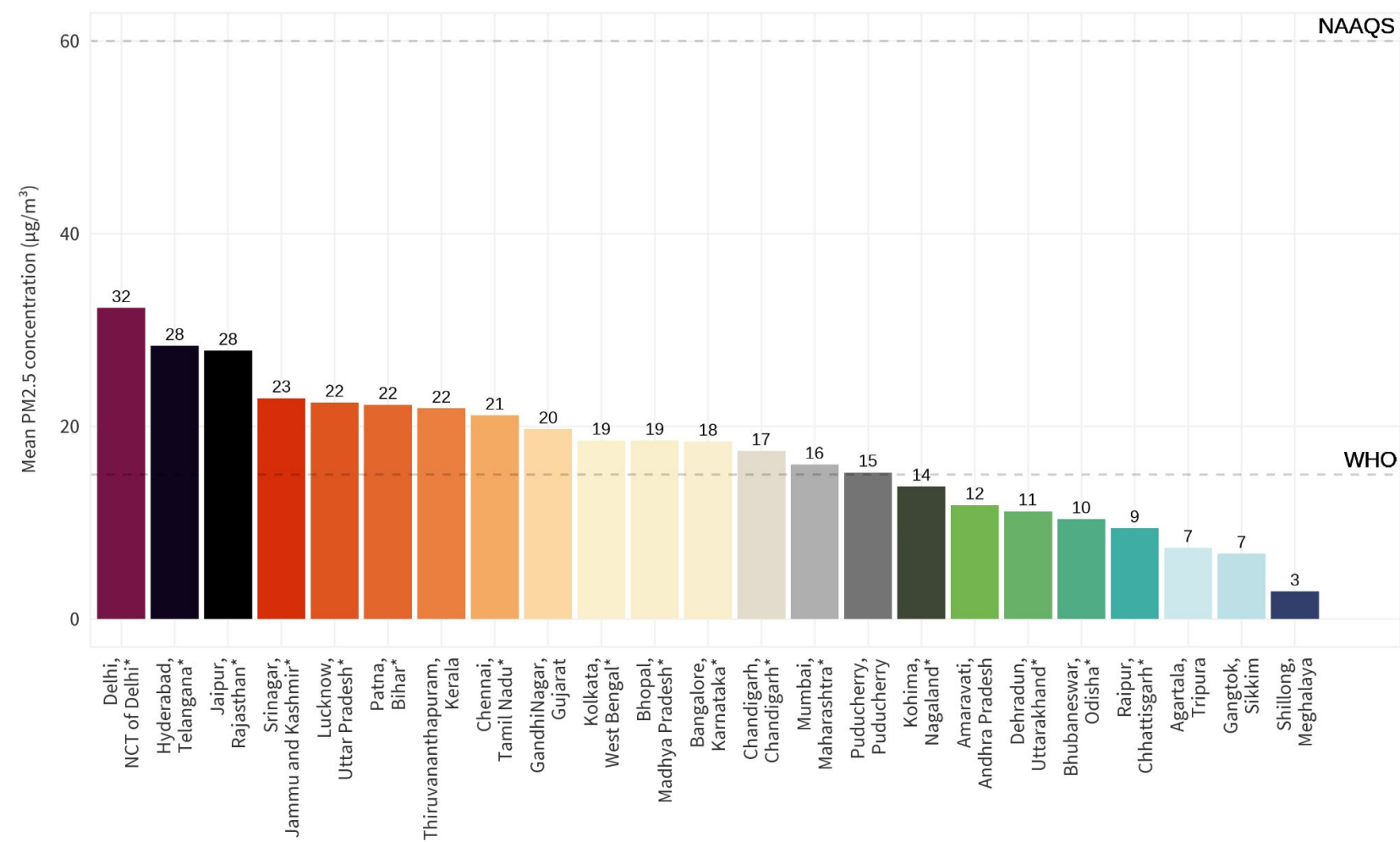
# State-wise most polluted cities (PM<sub>2.5</sub>, µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in India – August 2025

\* indicates NCAP cities



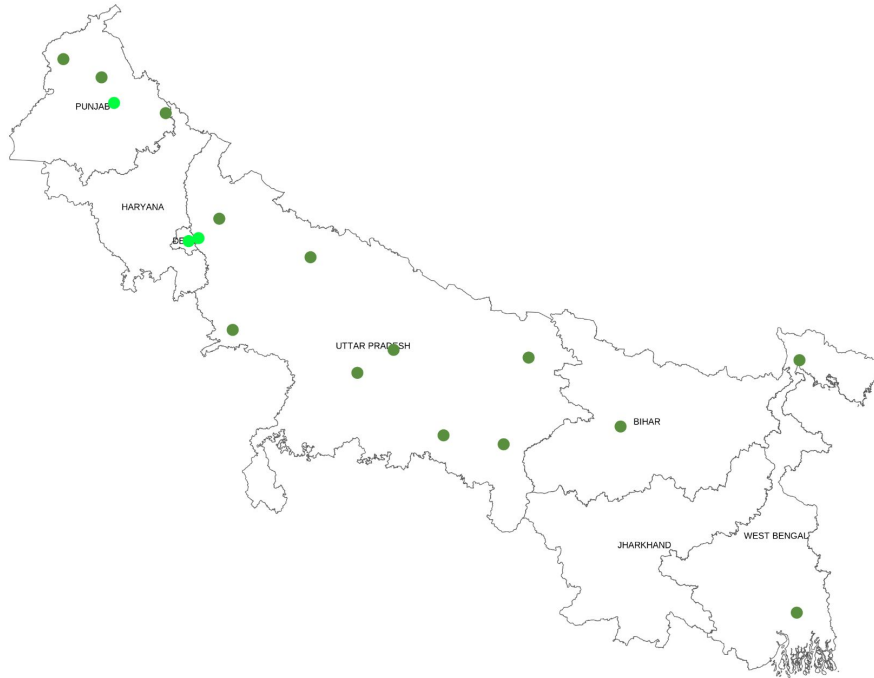
# PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations across state capital cities in India – August 2025

\* indicates NCAP cities



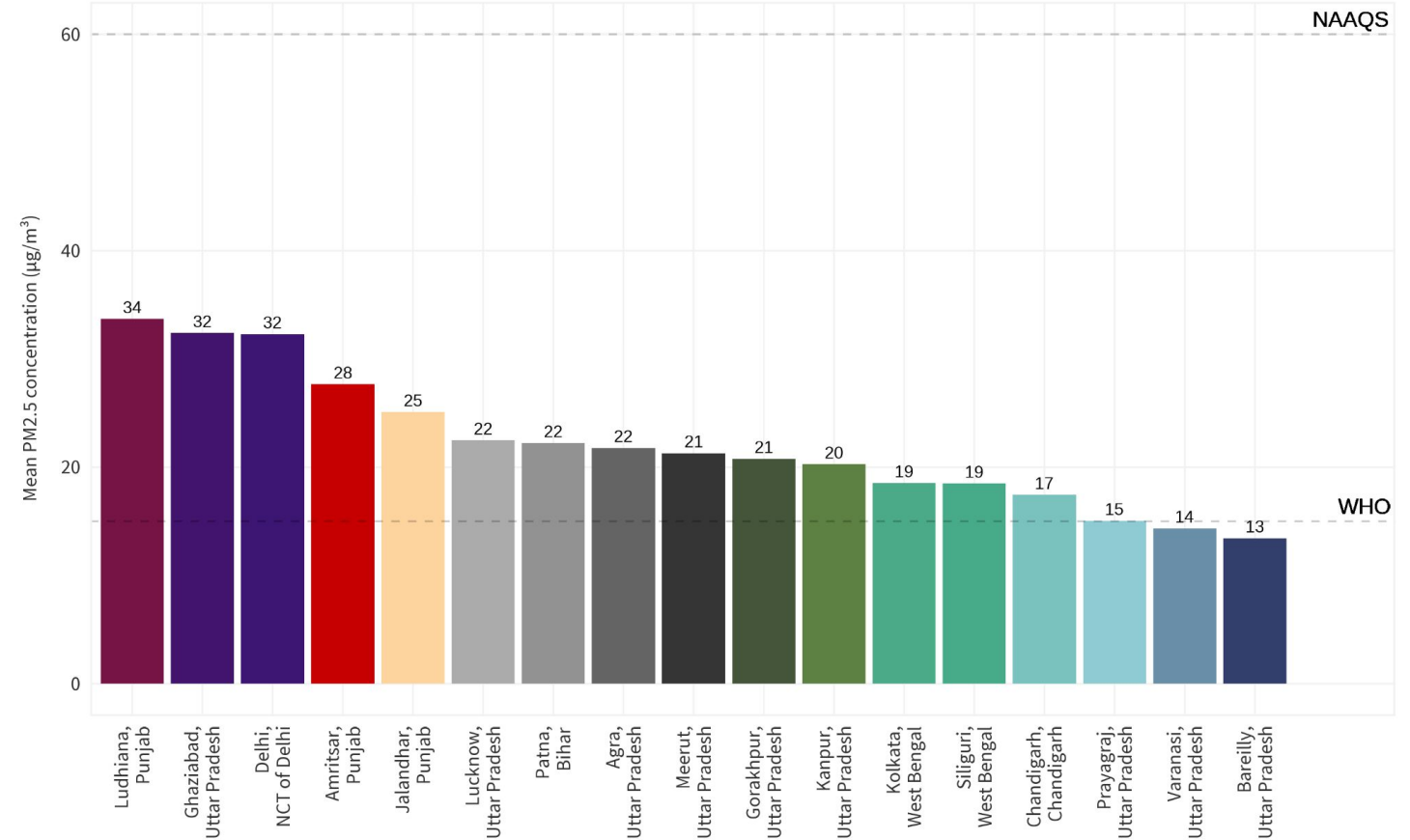
Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh); Dispur (Assam); Panaji (Goa); Shimla (Himachal Pradesh); Ranchi (Jharkhand); Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands); Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu); Leh (Ladakh); and Kavaratti (Lakshadweep) don't have an operational CAAQMS.

# PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations across million plus cities with CAAQMS in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India – August 2025



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PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations across million plus cities in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India (with CAAQMS) - August 2025

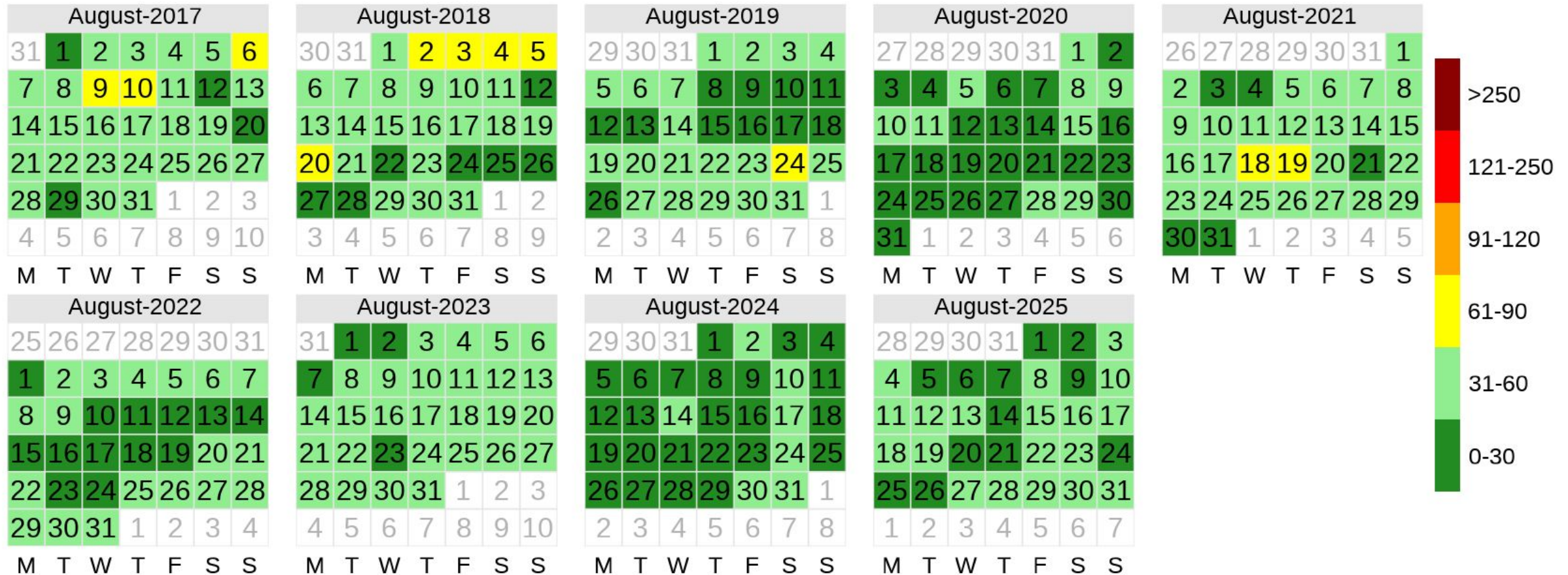


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# Ambient air quality status in Delhi – August 2025

## (PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

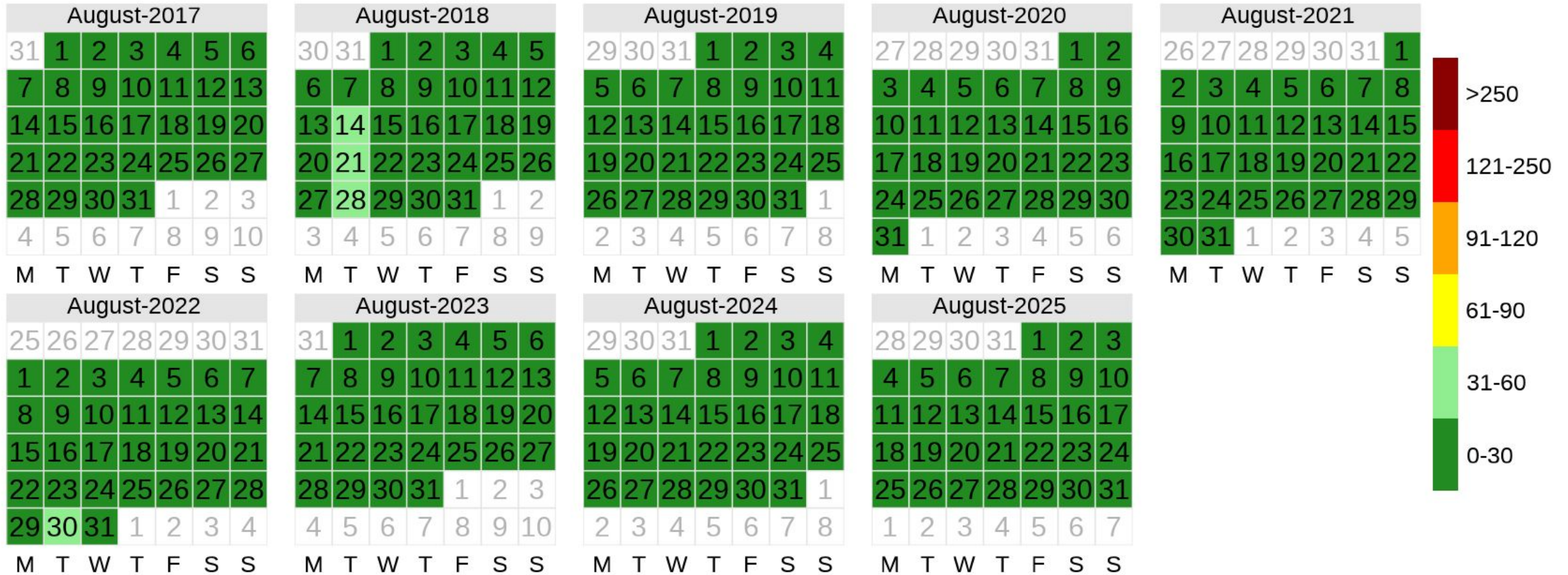
Delhi Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentration (µg m<sup>-3</sup>)





# Ambient air quality status in Mumbai – August 2025 (PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

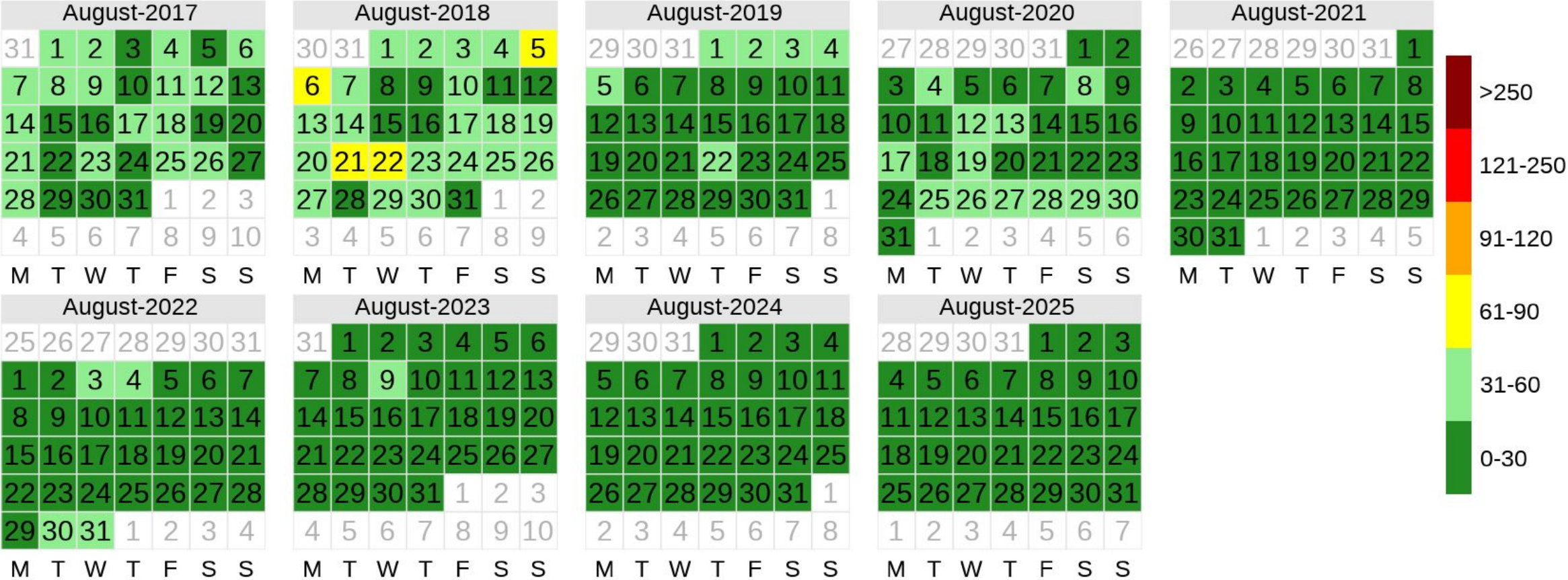
Mumbai Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentration (µg m<sup>-3</sup>)



# Ambient air quality status in Chennai – August 2025

(PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

Chennai Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentration (µg m<sup>-3</sup>)

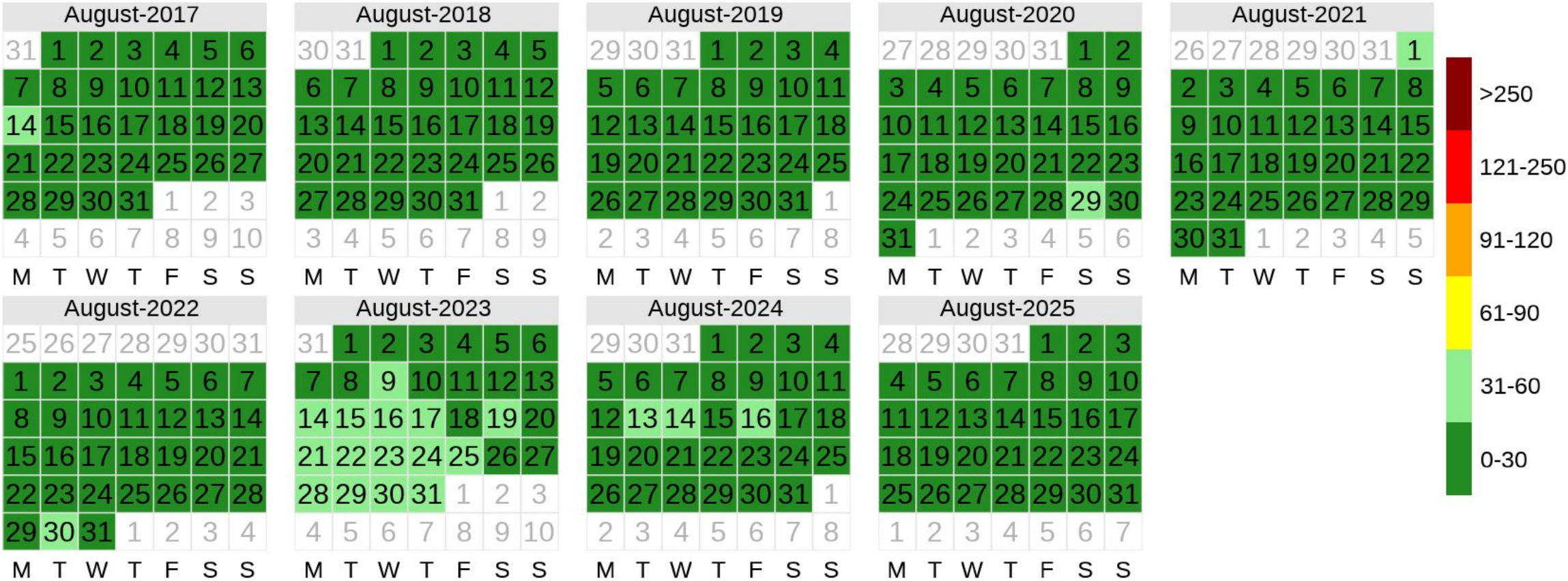




# Ambient air quality status in Bangalore – August 2025

(PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

Bangalore Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentration (µg m<sup>-3</sup>)

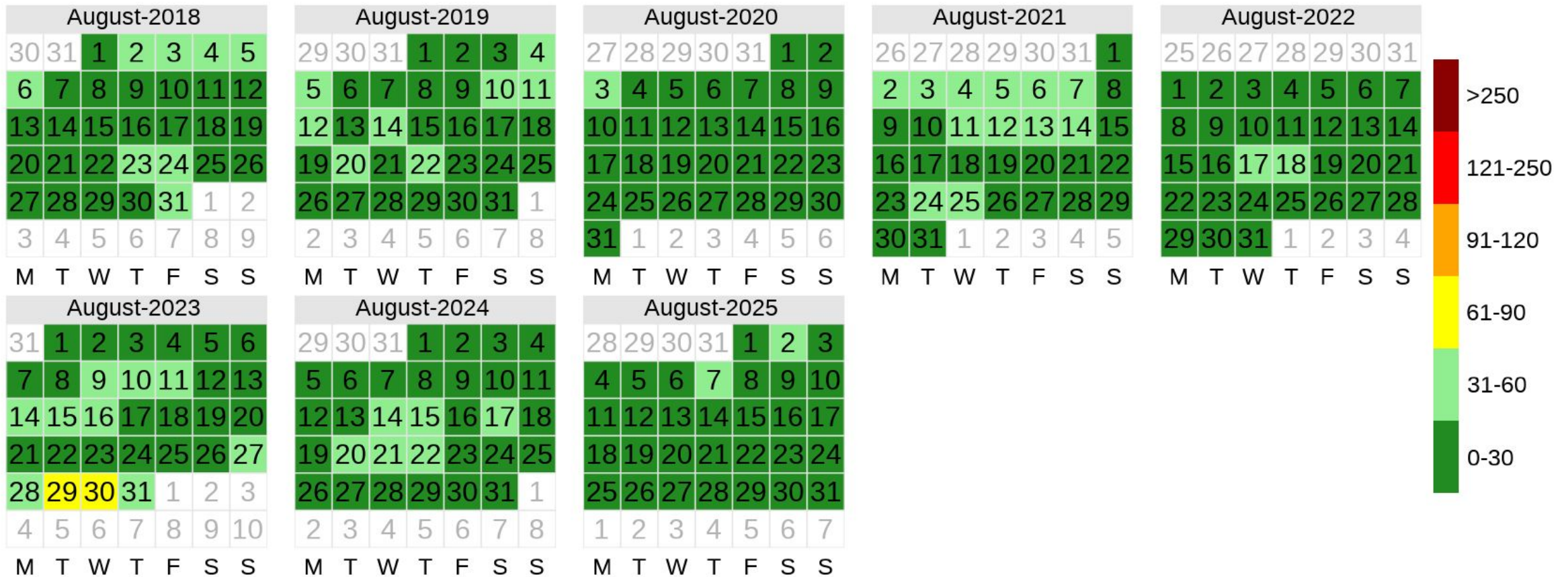




# Ambient air quality status in Kolkata – August 2025

## (PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, µg/m<sup>3</sup>)

Kolkata Daily PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentration (µg m<sup>-3</sup>)



## Data sources

Ambient air quality data recorded by Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) is downloaded from the '[Central Control Room for Air Quality Management - All India](#)' dashboard operated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

## Resources

To subscribe to these monthly air quality snapshots and to access the graphs and web version of this snapshot on our website here- [India monthly ambient air quality snapshot](#)