

● Good ● Satisfactory ● Moderate



CREA

Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

Monthly ambient air quality snapshot for India

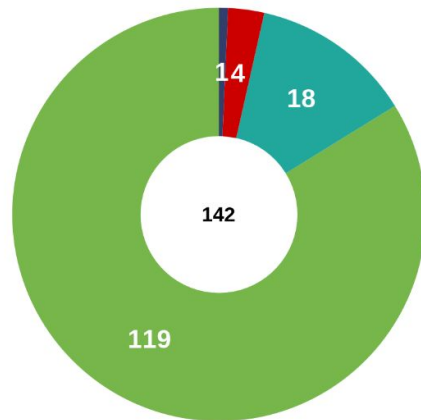
September 2025

Key highlights

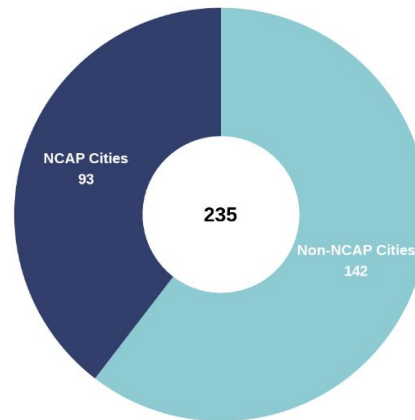
- **Compliance:** In September 2025, **231 out of 235 cities** with more than 80% of the days with continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) data available **recorded PM_{2.5} concentrations below India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** of 60 µg/m³. **Only 32 cities complied with the World Health Organization's (WHO) daily safe guideline** concentration of 15 µg/m³.
 - **NCAP cities:** The monthly average PM_{2.5} levels in all 93 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities with more than 80% of days with data complied with India's daily NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, while 88 cities exceeded the WHO's daily guideline.
 - **Non-NCAP cities:** Among the 142 non-NCAP cities with over 80% of days with CAAQMS data, 115 cities reported monthly average PM_{2.5} levels above the WHO daily guideline. Only four cities exceeded the daily NAAQS.
- **AOI category:** **With the monsoon season receding, the number of cities with 'Good' (0-30 µg/m³) air quality in September 2025 declined to 179, compared to 204 in August.** At the same time, the share of cities in the 'Satisfactory' (31-60 µg/m³) range rose to 52, up from 34 in the previous month. The count of cities with 'Moderate' (61-90 µg/m³) air quality also rose slightly, from two to four.
- **Most polluted city:** **Nandesari ranked as the most polluted city in India in September 2025, recording a monthly average PM_{2.5} concentration of 89 µg/m³.** It exceeded the daily NAAQS limit of 60 µg/m³ on 96% of the days that month.
 - Kishanganj and Aurangabad in Bihar were the second and third most polluted cities, with monthly averages of 72 and 69 µg/m³, respectively.
 - **Delhi recorded a monthly average PM_{2.5} concentration of 36 µg/m³** and ranked 28th at the national level.
- **Cleanest city:** **Karwar, in the state of Karnataka, was the cleanest city in India** during September, with a monthly average PM_{2.5} of 4 µg/m³.
- **Megacities:** All megacities, such as Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bangalore had monthly average PM_{2.5} below NAAQS.

Number of cities vs frequency of days with PM_{2.5} concentration above NAAQS and WHO guidelines – September 2025

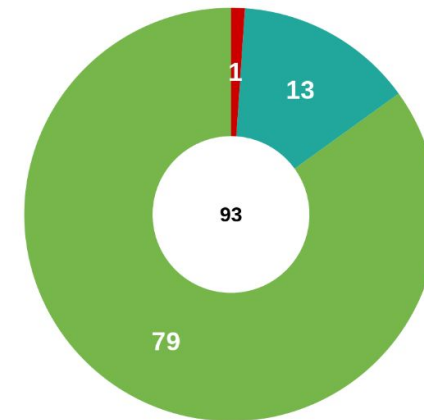
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



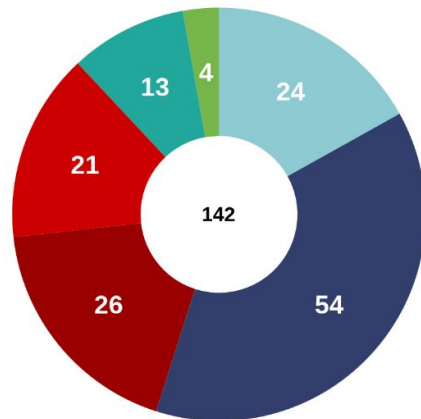
Total # of cities with >80% of the days
with CAAQMS data



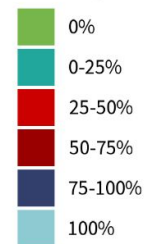
Categorisation of NCAP cities
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



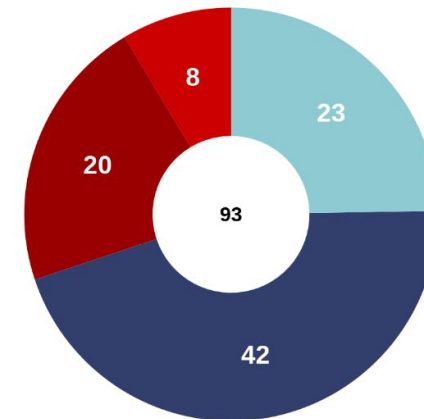
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities
against compliance to WHO guidelines



% of days above standard



Categorisation of NCAP cities
against compliance to WHO guidelines



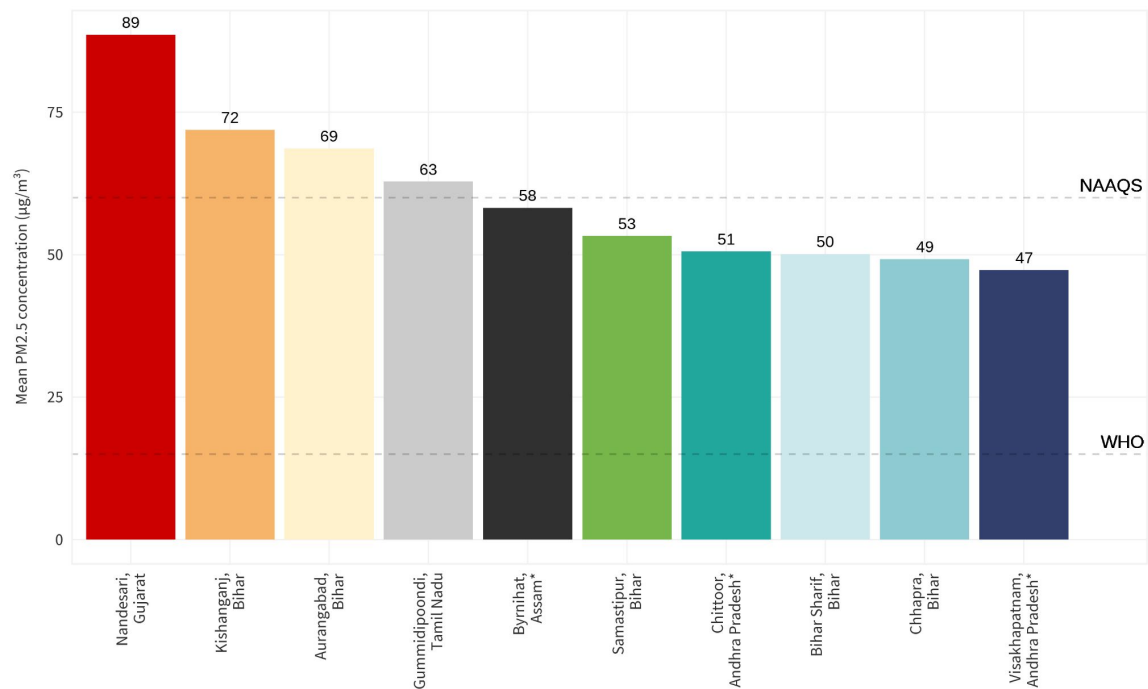
Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – September 2025

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM_{2.5} (µg/m³) – September 2025

City	Monitored days	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Nandesari	24	0	1	14	6	3	0
Kishanganj	29	2	14	9	2	2	0
Aurangabad	29	9	9	5	4	2	0
Gummidipoondi	30	0	16	12	2	0	0
Byrnihat	29	0	20	9	0	0	0
Samastipur	28	6	16	4	0	2	0
Chittoor	30	0	27	3	0	0	0
Bihar Sharif	30	0	24	6	0	0	0
Chhapra	30	11	9	7	2	1	0
Visakhapatnam	30	1	24	5	0	0	0

Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration - September 2025

* indicates NCAP cities

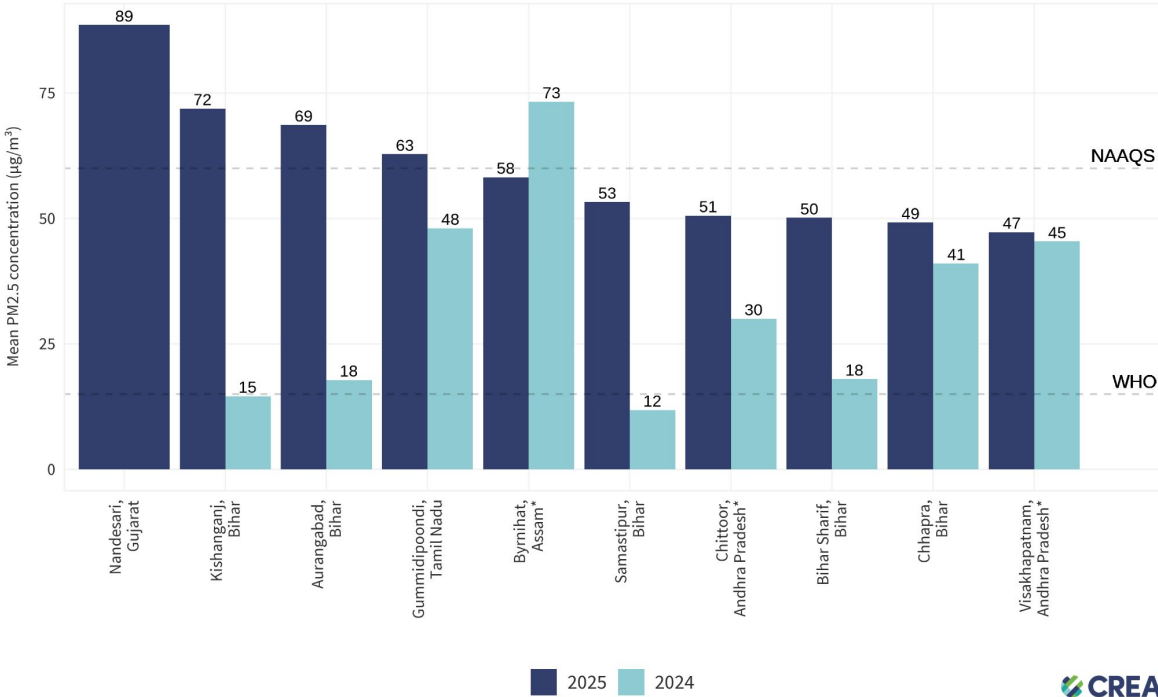


Status of PM_{2.5} concentration in September 2024 for top 10 most polluted cities in September 2025 across India

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM _{2.5} (µg/m³) – September 2024							
City	Monitored days	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Aurangabad	30	28	2	0	0	0	0
Bihar Sharif	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Byrnihat	30	0	13	11	3	3	0
Chhapra	30	8	19	3	0	0	0
Chittoor	29	13	16	0	0	0	0
Gummidipoondi	30	3	21	6	0	0	0
Kishanganj	29	29	0	0	0	0	0
Samastipur	30	27	3	0	0	0	0
Visakhapatnam	30	1	27	2	0	0	0

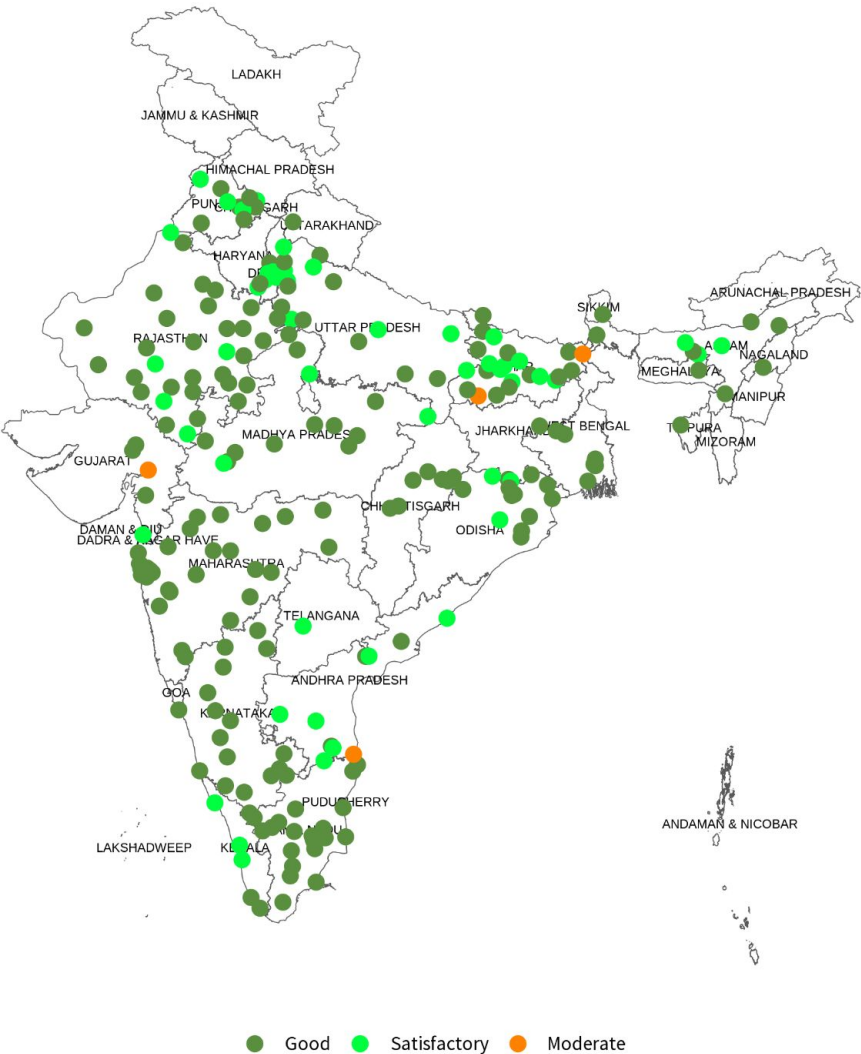
Year-on-year change of top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM2.5 concentration - September 2025

* indicates NCAP cities



Note: Nandesari data is not available for 2024

Distribution of cities by PM2.5 air quality index (AQI) based on monthly average PM_{2.5} concentrations – September 2025



State/UT	Number of cities in AQI category (PM _{2.5} µg/m ³)				
	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	3	0	0	0
Bihar	12	9	2	0	0
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	8	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	3	1	1	0	0
Haryana	1	1	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0
Jharkhand	1	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	17	0	0	0	0
Kerala	2	3	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	10	2	0	0	0
Maharashtra	30	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	11	3	0	0	0
Punjab	5	3	0	0	0
Rajasthan	28	6	0	0	0
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	21	0	1	0	0
Telangana	0	1	0	0	0
Tripura	1	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	9	11	0	0	0
Uttarakhand	2	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	7	0	0	0	0

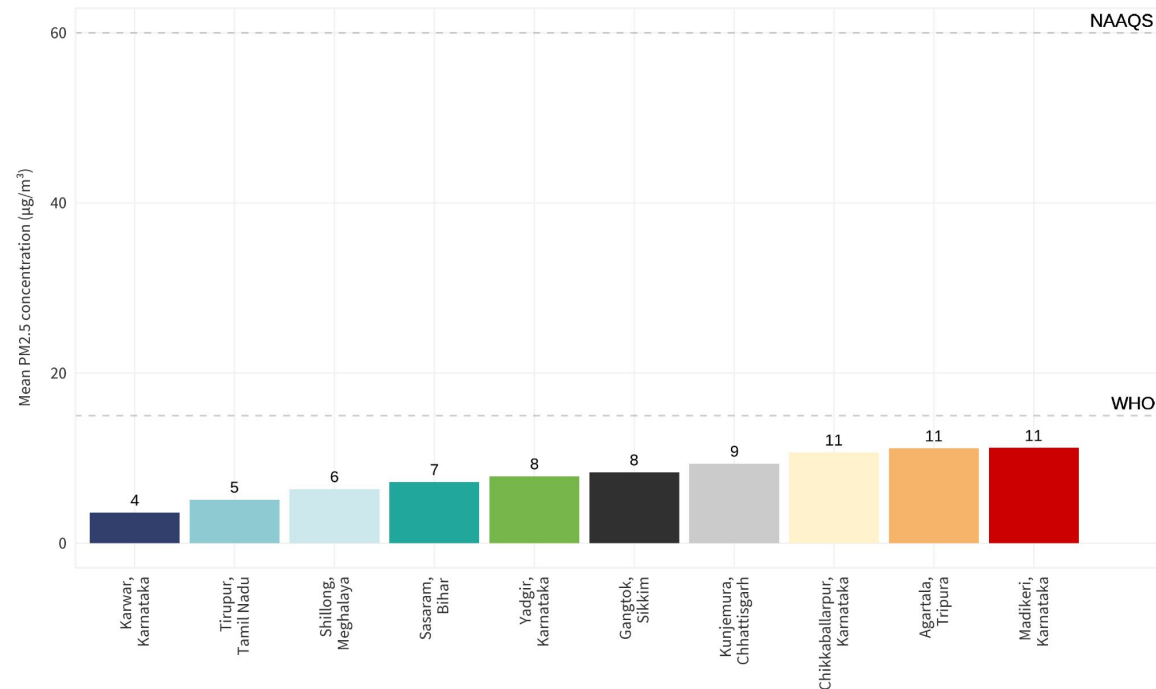
Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – September 2025

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM_{2.5} (µg/m³) – September 2025

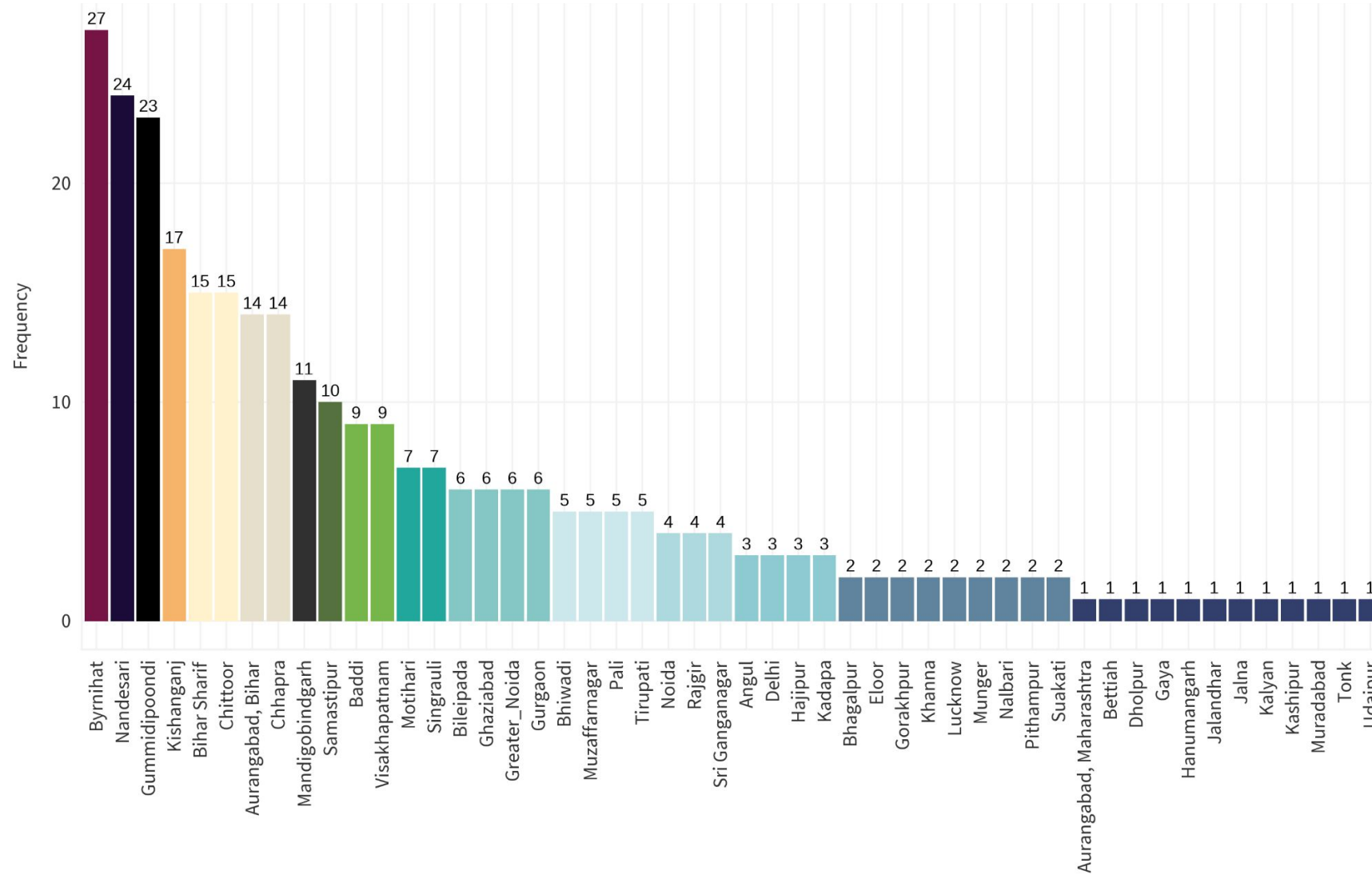
City	Monitored days	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Karwar	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Tirupur	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Shillong	25	25	0	0	0	0	0
Sasaram	28	28	0	0	0	0	0
Yadgir	29	29	0	0	0	0	0
Gangtok	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Kunjemura	27	27	0	0	0	0	0
Chikkaballapur	26	26	0	0	0	0	0
Agartala	30	30	0	0	0	0	0
Madikeri	30	30	0	0	0	0	0

Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration - September 2025

* indicates NCAP cities

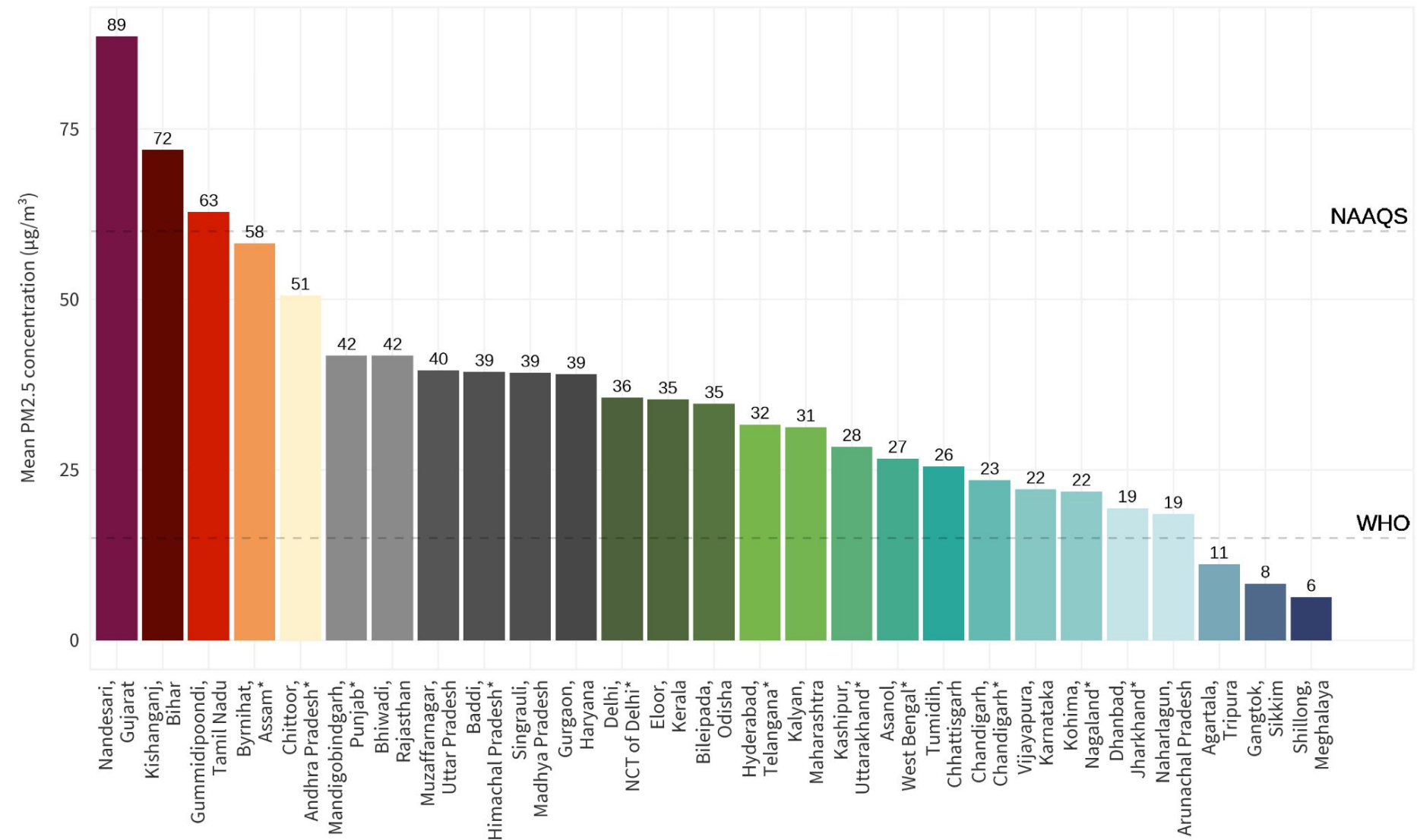


Frequency of appearance of respective cities in top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – September 2025



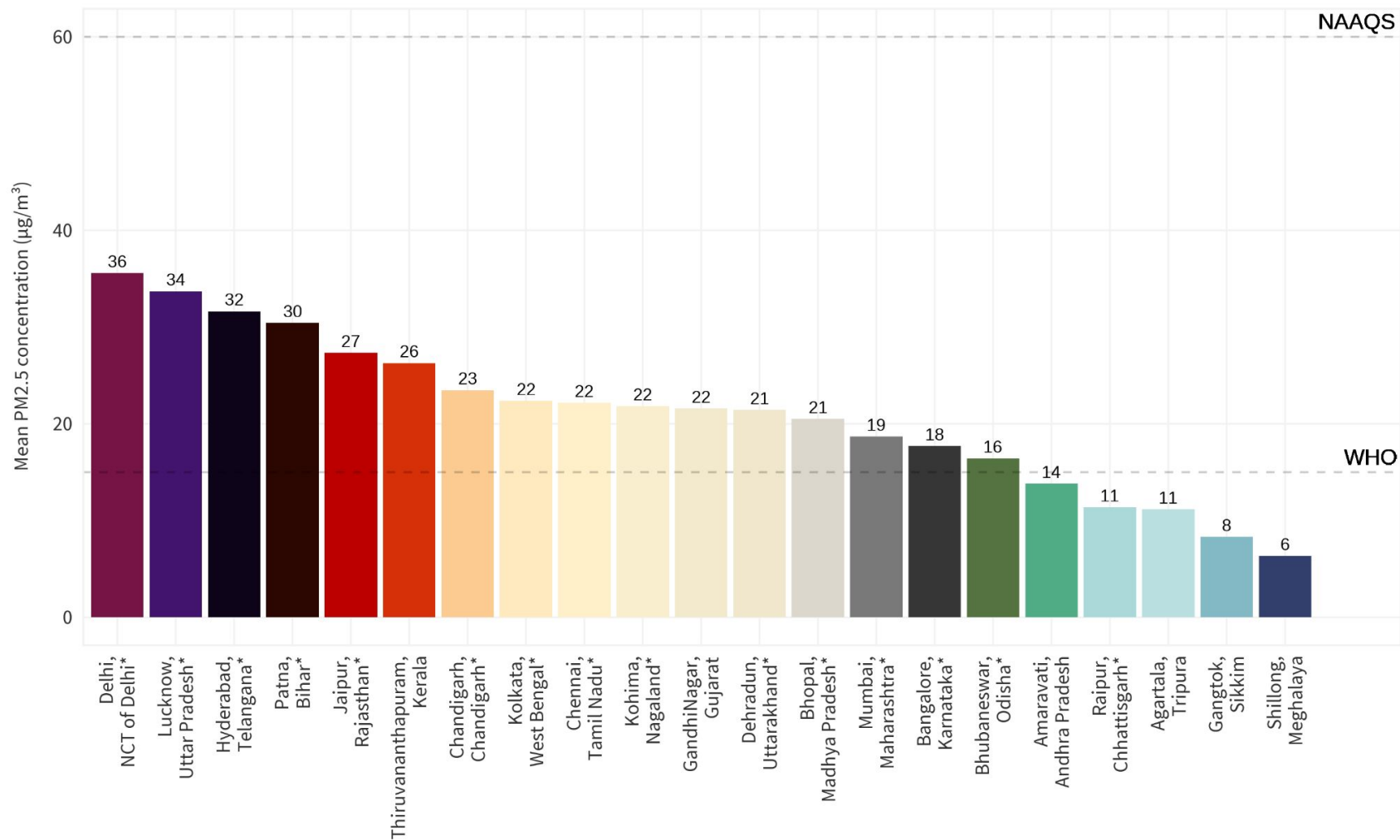
State-wise most polluted cities (PM_{2.5}, µg/m³) in India – September 2025

* indicates NCAP cities



PM_{2.5} concentrations across state capital cities in India – September 2025

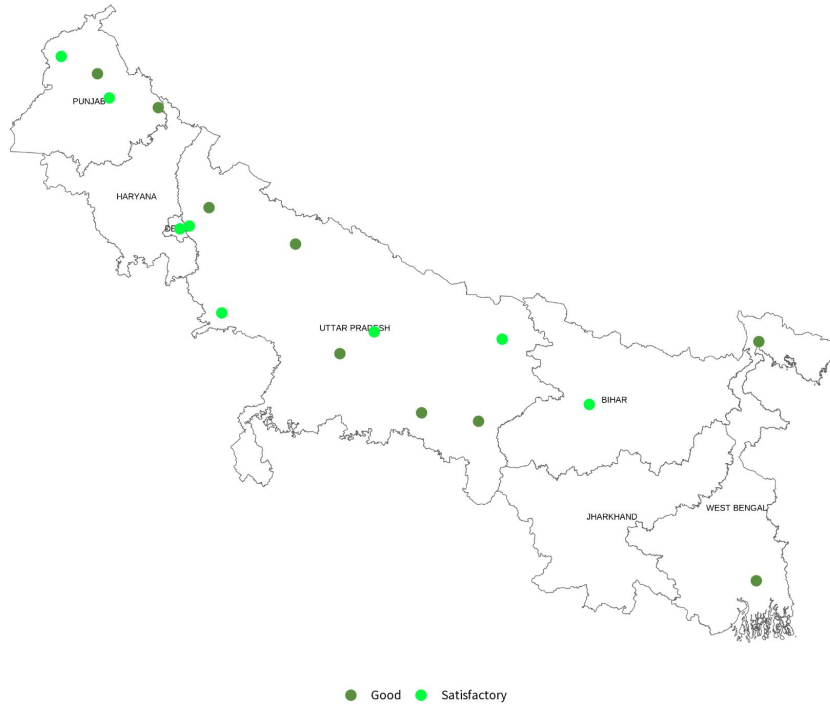
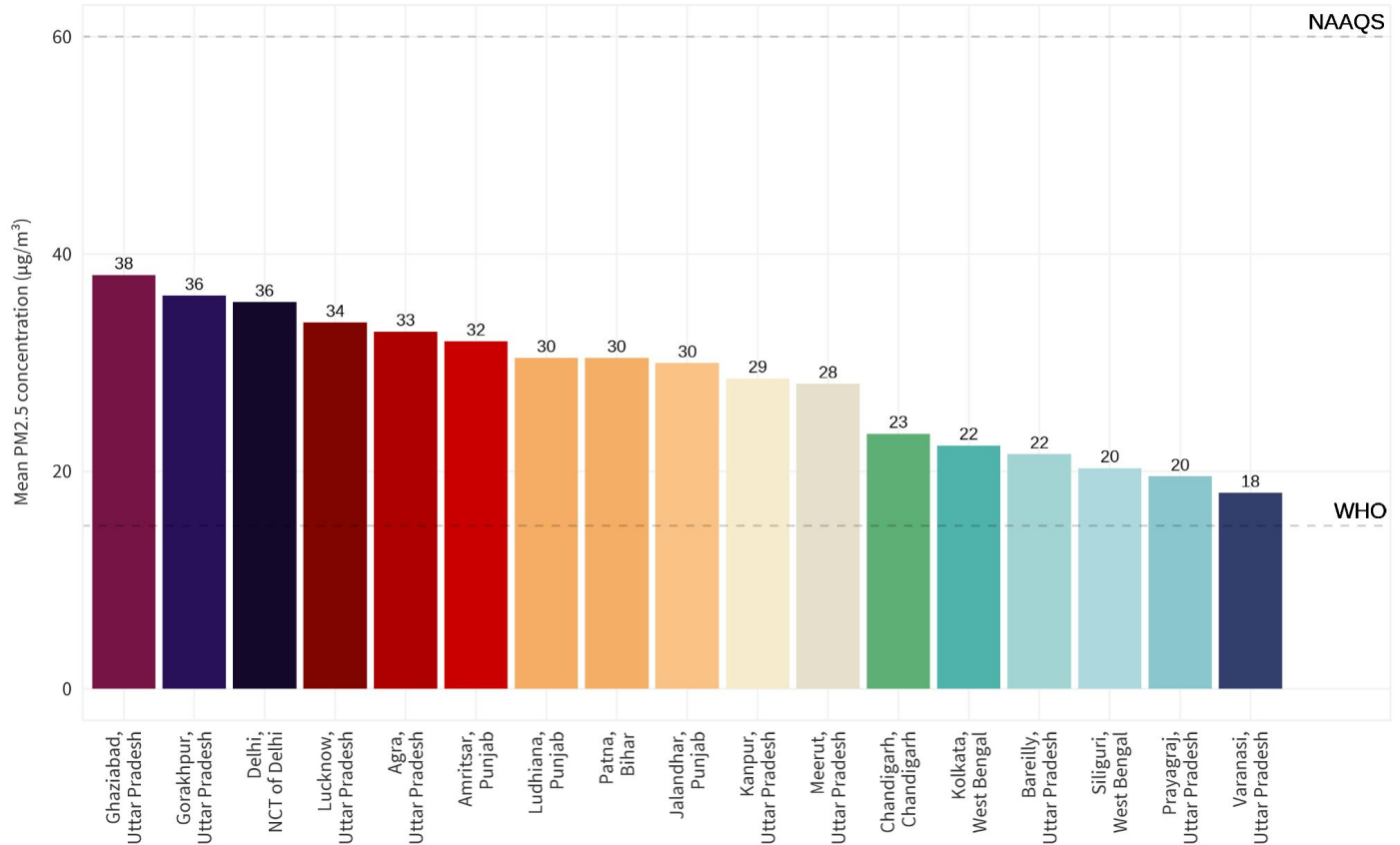
* indicates NCAP cities



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_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities with CAAQMS in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India – September 2025

PM_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India (with CAAQMS) - September 2025



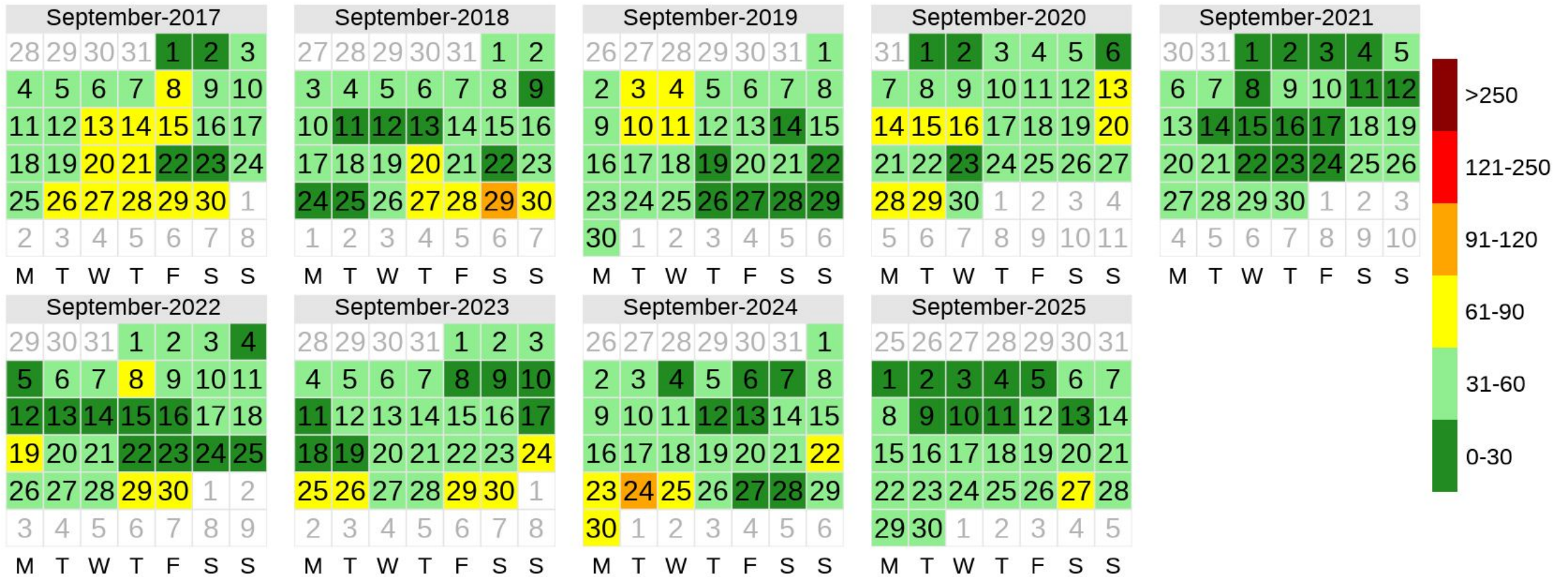
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Ambient air quality status in Delhi – September 2025

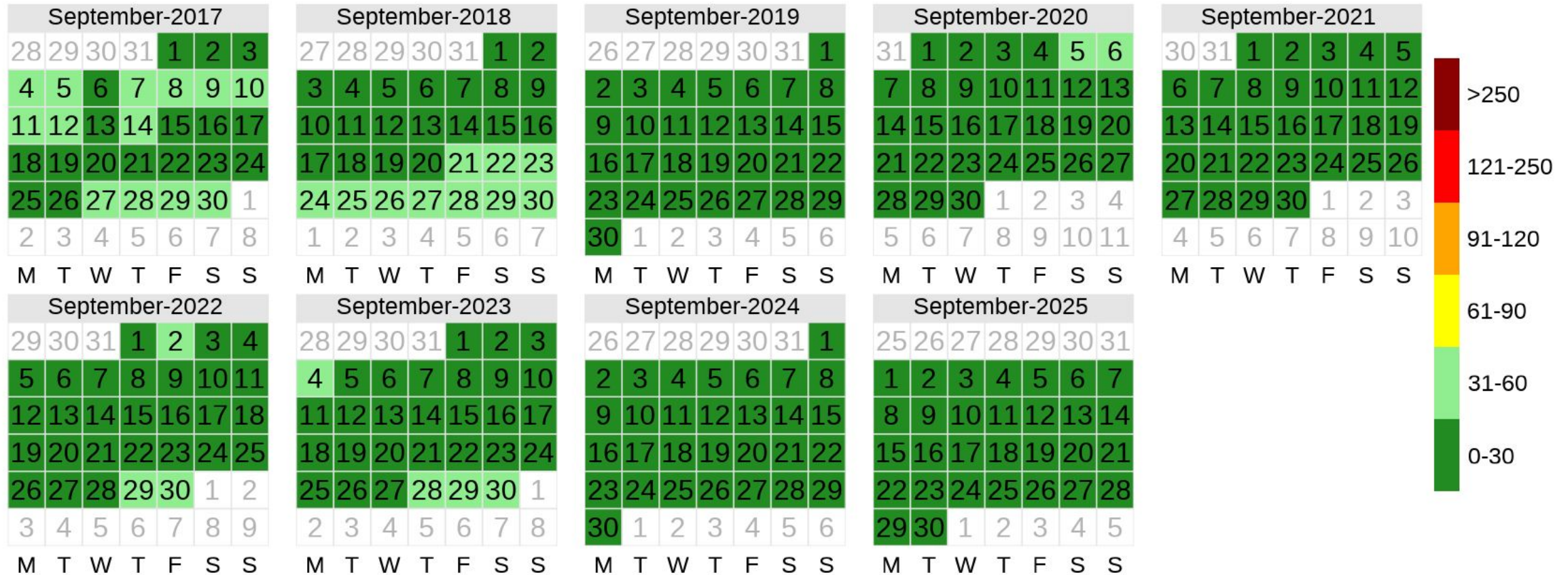
(PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)

Delhi Daily PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³)



Ambient air quality status in Mumbai – September 2025 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)

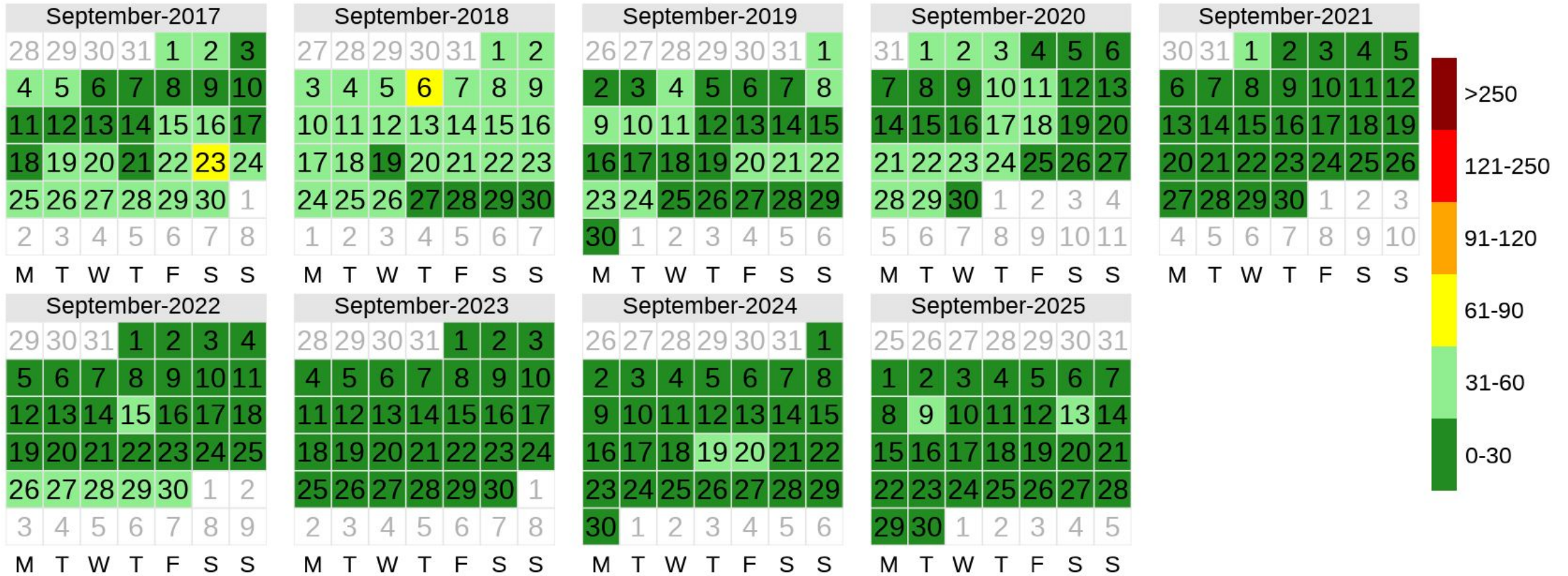
Mumbai Daily PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³)



Ambient air quality status in Chennai – September 2025

(PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)

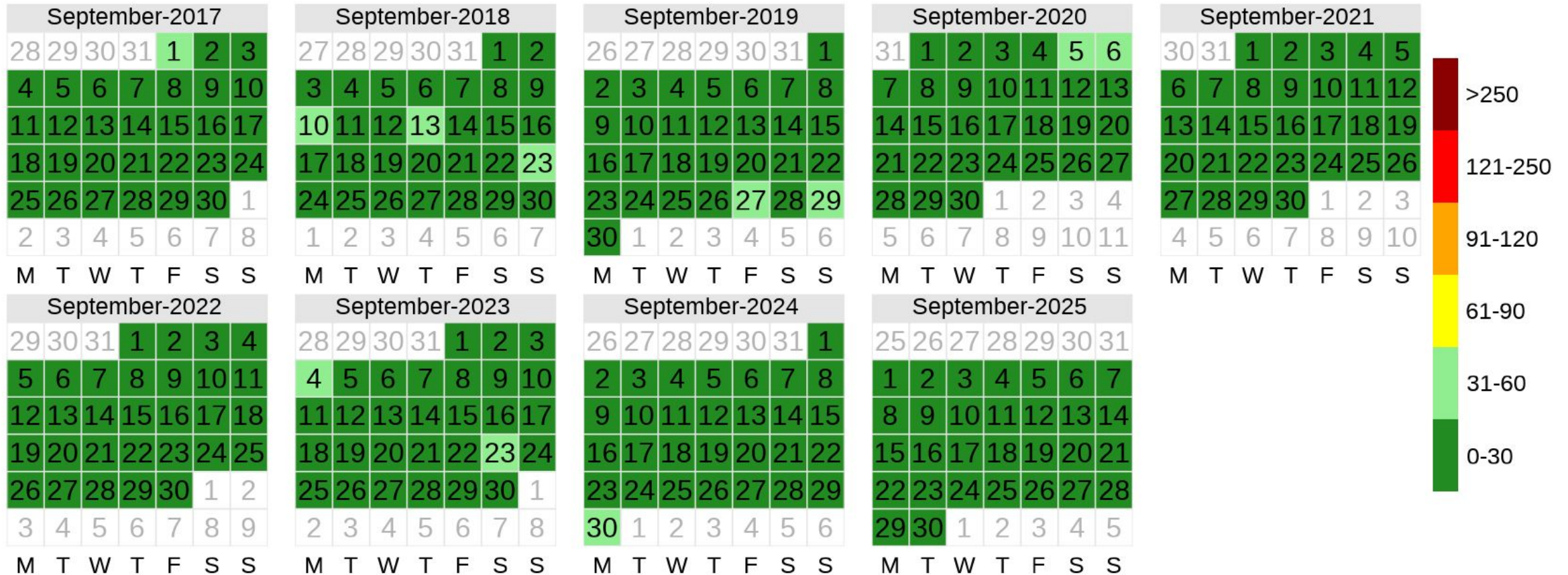
Chennai Daily PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³)



Ambient air quality status in Bangalore – September 2025

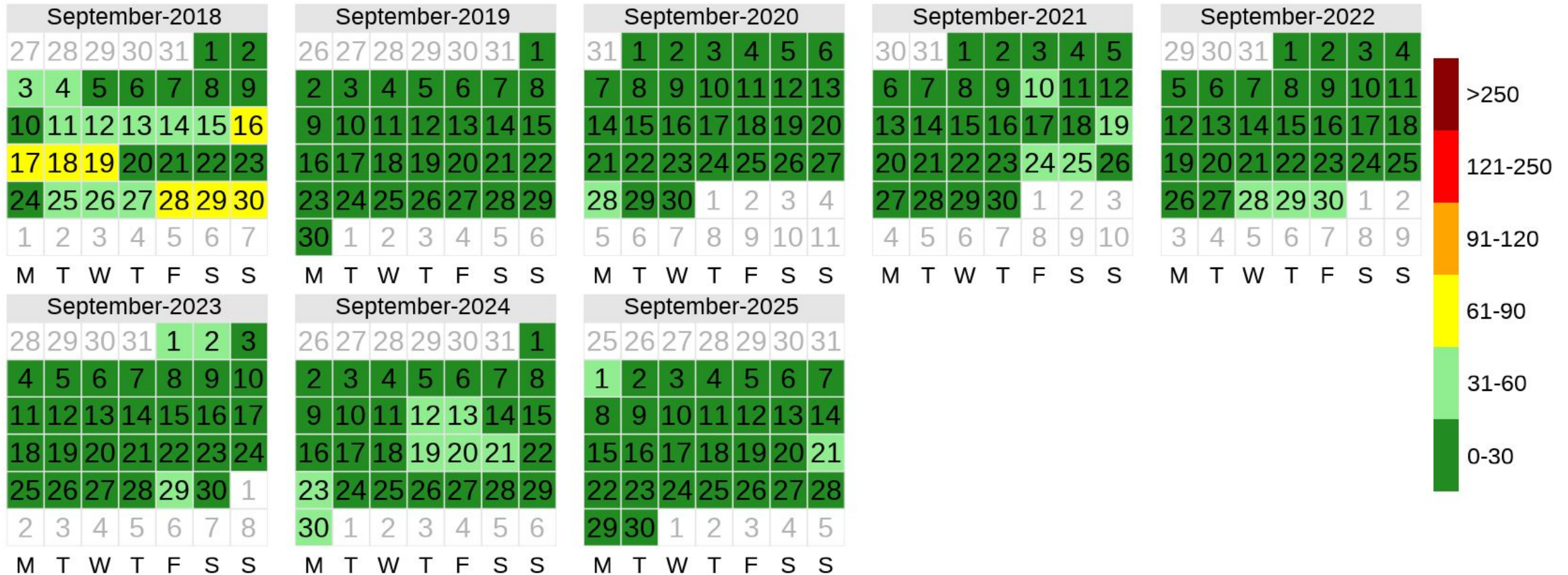
(PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)

Bangalore Daily PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³)



Ambient air quality status in Kolkata – September 2025 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)

Kolkata Daily PM_{2.5} Concentration (µg m⁻³)



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](#)