

CREA

Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

Monthly ambient air quality snapshot for India

April 2026

● Good ● Satisfactory ● Moderate ● Poor ● Very Poor

Key highlights

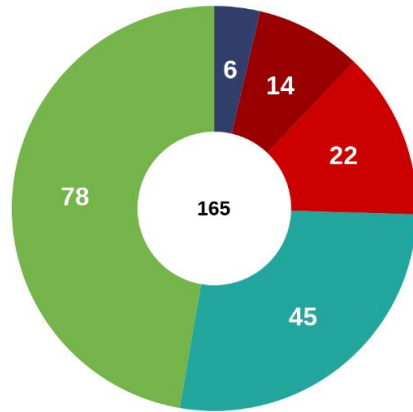
- **Compliance:** In April 2026, 225 out of 260 cities with 80% and above days with continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) available data recorded PM_{2.5} concentrations below India's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 60 µg/m³. Five cities complied with the World Health Organization's (WHO) daily safe guideline concentration of 15 µg/m³.
 - **NCAP cities:** The monthly average PM_{2.5} levels in seven National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities (out of 95 cities with more than 80% of days with data) surpassed India's daily NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, while 93 of 95 NCAP cities exceeded the WHO's daily guideline.
 - **Non-NCAP cities:** Among the 165 non-NCAP cities with over 80% of days with CAAQMS data, 162 cities reported monthly average PM_{2.5} levels above the WHO daily guideline. Twenty-eight cities exceeded the daily NAAQS.
- **Most polluted city: Khora in Uttar Pradesh ranked as the most polluted city in India in April 2026**, recording a monthly average PM_{2.5} concentration of 153 µg/m³, surpassing the daily NAAQS limit of 60 µg/m³ 100% of the days in the month.
 - Khora recorded 13 days in the 'Very Poor' category, two days in the 'Severe' (>250 µg/m³) category, five days in the 'Poor' category, and four days in 'Moderate' category.
 - **Modinagar in Uttar Pradesh was the second most polluted city in India during April 2026, with monthly average PM_{2.5} of 109 µg/m³.**
 - Throughout April, Modinagar recorded nine days in the 'Very Poor' category, five days in the 'Poor' category, seven days in the 'Moderate' category, and three days in the 'Satisfactory' category.

- Ghaziabad, Manesar, Charkhi Dadri, Yamunanagar, Faridabad, Singrauli, and Narnaul were in the top 10 cities, with Ghaziabad and Narnaul in third and tenth places, respectively.
- **Haryana accounted for six of the ten most polluted cities in April 2026, followed by Uttar Pradesh with three cities, then one in Madhya Pradesh.**
- State with most polluted cities: Among all Indian states, Haryana had the highest number of cities exceeding NAAQS, with 15 out of 24 recording PM_{2.5} higher than NAAQS. Of these cities, three were in the 'Good', six in the 'Satisfactory' category, and 15 cities were in the 'Moderate' category. Uttar Pradesh had the second highest number with eight out of 23 cities exceeding NAAQS.
- Cleanest city: **Puducherry and Rupnagar in Punjab were recorded as the cleanest city in India during April**, with a monthly average PM_{2.5} of 10 µg/m³ each, followed by Rajamahendravaram and Srinagar with a monthly average PM_{2.5} of 12 µg/m³ in each city. The top 10 cleanest cities comprise of one each from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu.
- Frequency in top 10 polluted cities: **A total of 58 cities were featured in the daily top 10 most polluted cities list in April 2026**, topped by Khora (24 days), followed by Charkhi Dadri (17 days), Ghaziabad (16 days), 14 days each for cities including Gurgaon, Manesar, Modinagar and Singrauli, and then by Faridabad (10 days).
- Megacities: Delhi (68 µg/m³) exceeded the NAAQS in April, while Bangalore (37 µg/m³), Mumbai (27 µg/m³), Kolkata (26 µg/m³) and Chennai (17 µg/m³) all recorded monthly average PM_{2.5} levels below the standard.

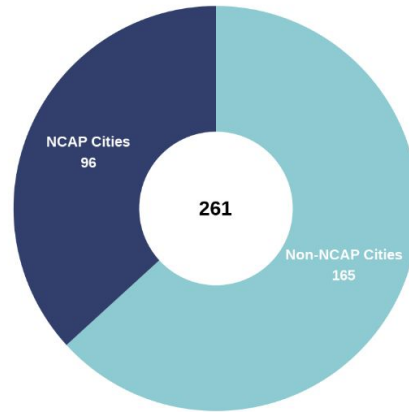
Number of cities vs. frequency of days

with PM_{2.5} concentration above NAAQS and WHO guidelines – April 2026

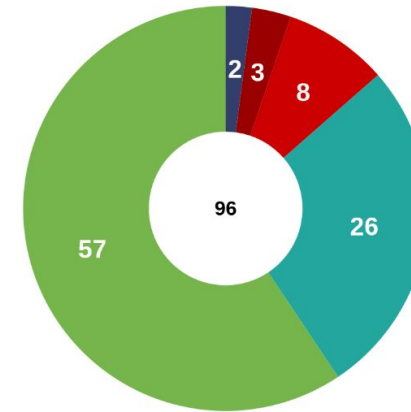
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



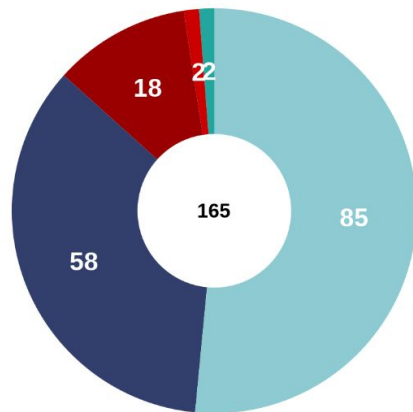
Total # of cities with >80% of the days with CAAQMS data



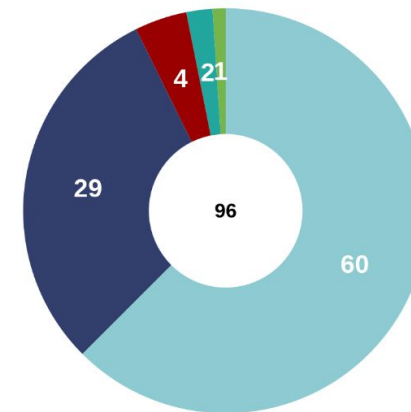
Categorisation of NCAP cities against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



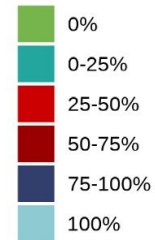
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities against compliance to WHO guidelines



Categorisation of NCAP cities against compliance to WHO guidelines



% of days above standard



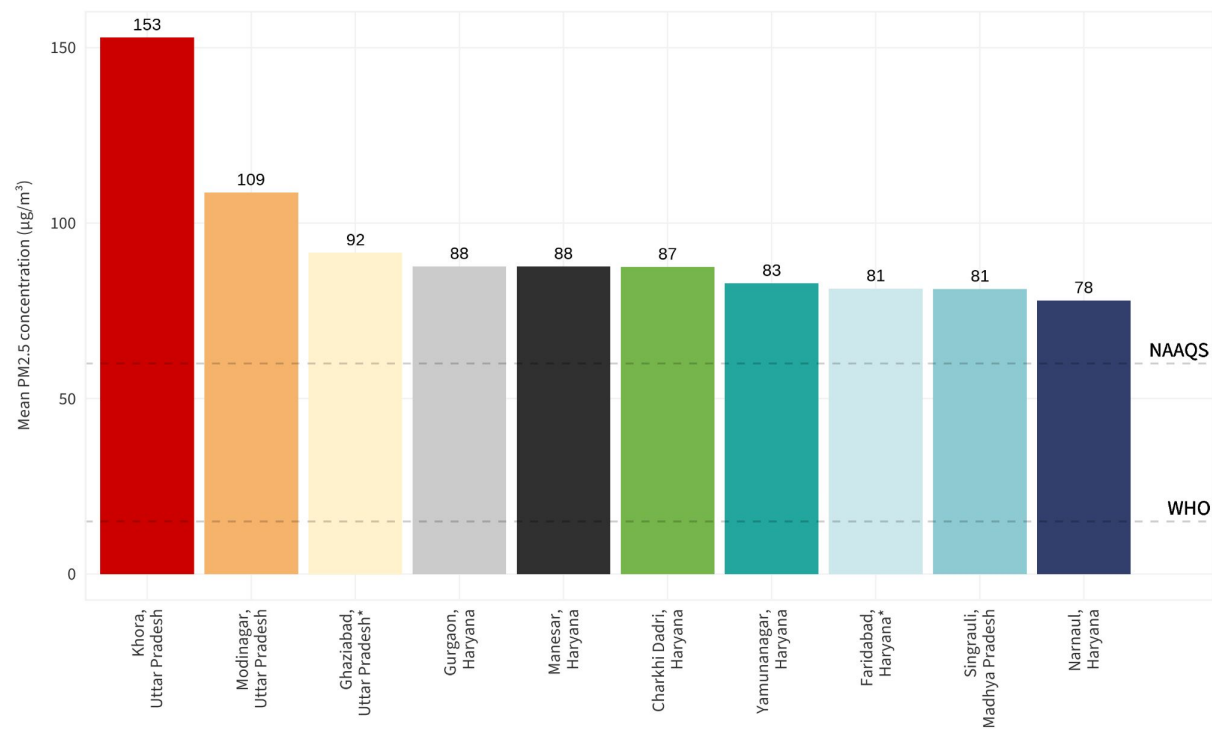
Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – April 2026

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM_{2.5} (µg/m³) – April 2026

City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Khora	0	0	4	5	13	2
Modinagar	0	3	7	5	9	0
Ghaziabad	0	6	11	7	6	0
Gurgaon	0	5	13	9	3	0
Manesar	1	6	9	9	5	0
Charkhi Dadri	0	5	10	10	5	0
Yamunanagar	0	7	13	8	2	0
Faridabad	0	1	22	6	1	0
Singrauli	1	9	6	11	3	0
Narnaul	0	11	15	2	1	1

Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration - April 2026

* indicates NCAP cities

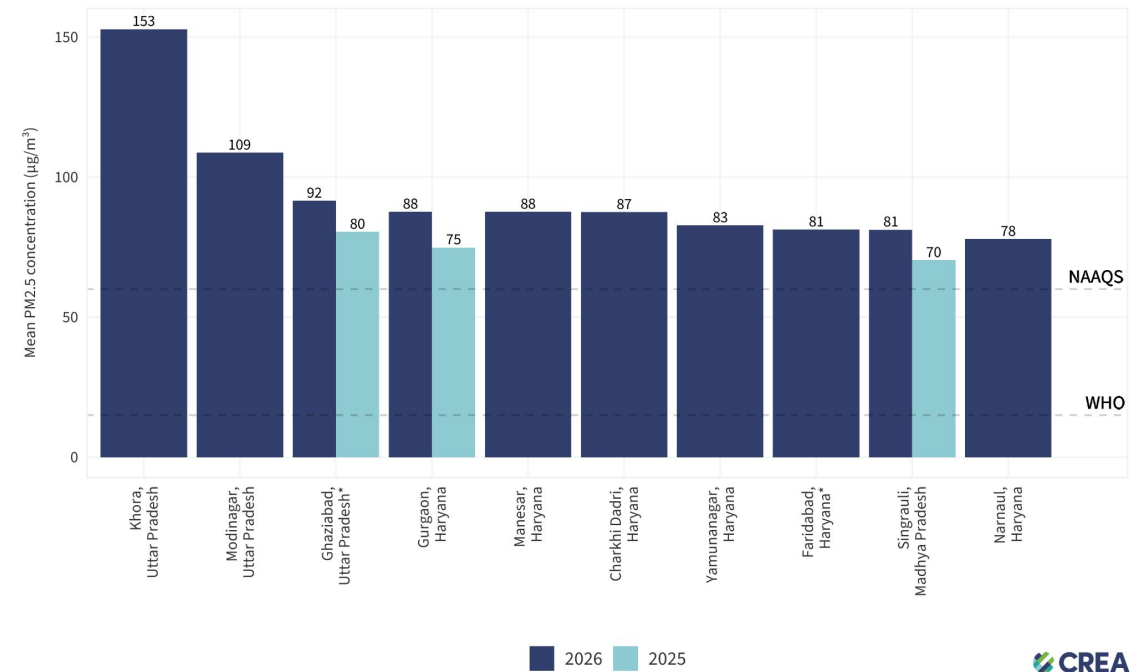


Status of PM_{2.5} concentration in April 2025 for top 10 most polluted cities in April 2026 across India

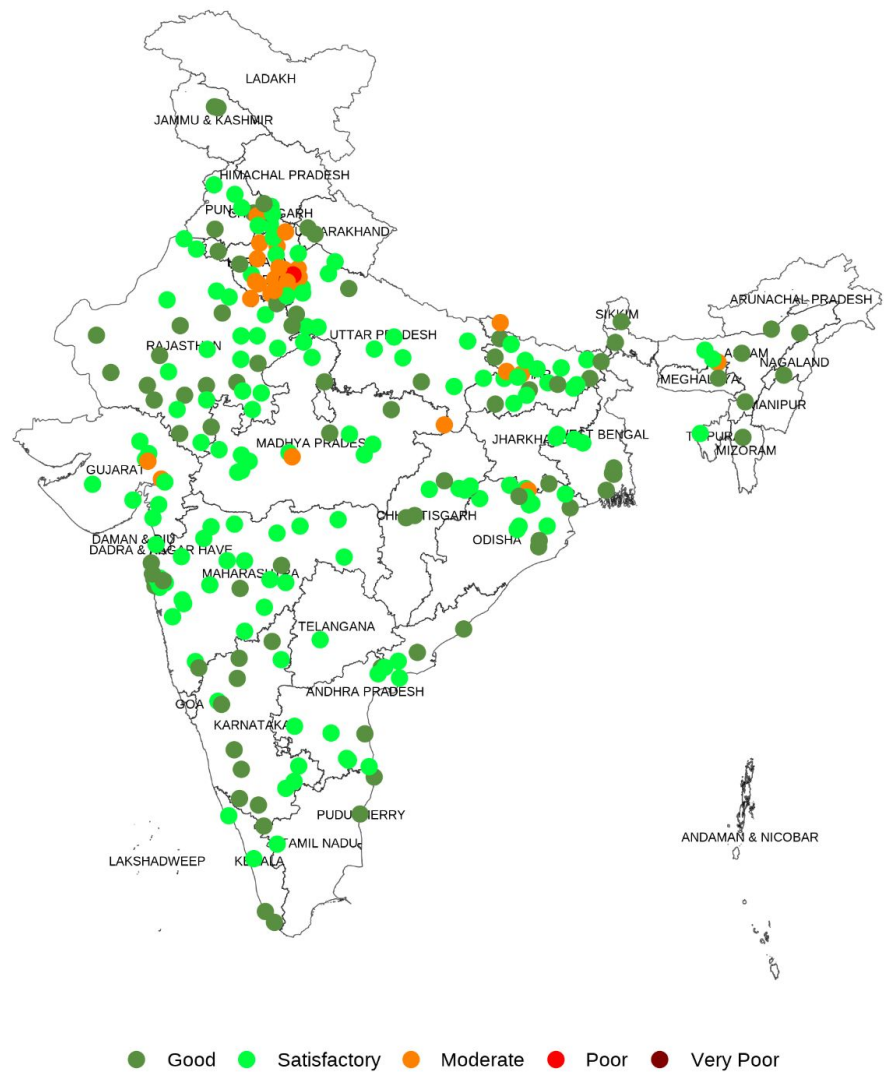
Days in respective AQI categories based on PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³) – April 2025						
City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Ghaziabad	0	7	11	9	3	0
Gurgaon	0	7	16	7	0	0
Singrauli	1	11	14	2	2	0

Year-on-year change of top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM2.5 concentration - April 2026

* indicates NCAAP cities



Distribution of cities by PM_{2.5} air quality index (AQI) based on monthly average PM_{2.5} concentrations – April 2026



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	4	8	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0
Assam	3	2	1	0	0
Bihar	7	13	3	0	0
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	4	4	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	9	2	0	0
Haryana	3	6	15	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	2	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	2	0	0	0
Karnataka	9	5	0	0	0
Kerala	2	2	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	2	10	2	0	0
Maharashtra	10	25	0	0	0
Meghalaya	1	1	0	0	0
Mizoram	1	0	0	0	0
NCT of Delhi	0	0	1	0	0
Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0
Odisha	5	10	1	0	0
Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0
Punjab	3	4	1	0	0
Rajasthan	14	19	1	0	0
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1	2	0	0	0
Telangana	0	1	0	0	0
Tripura	0	1	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	4	11	5	2	1
Uttarakhand	2	1	0	0	0
West Bengal	5	2	0	0	0

Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – April 2026

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM_{2.5} (µg/m³) – April 2026

City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Puducherry	30	0	0	0	0	0
Rupnagar	29	0	0	0	0	0
Rajamahendravaram	30	0	0	0	0	0
Srinagar	30	0	0	0	0	0
Shillong	29	1	0	0	0	0
Korba	27	3	0	0	0	0
Sivasagar	30	0	0	0	0	0
Barmer	28	2	0	0	0	0
Chennai	30	0	0	0	0	0
Dombivli	29	1	0	0	0	0

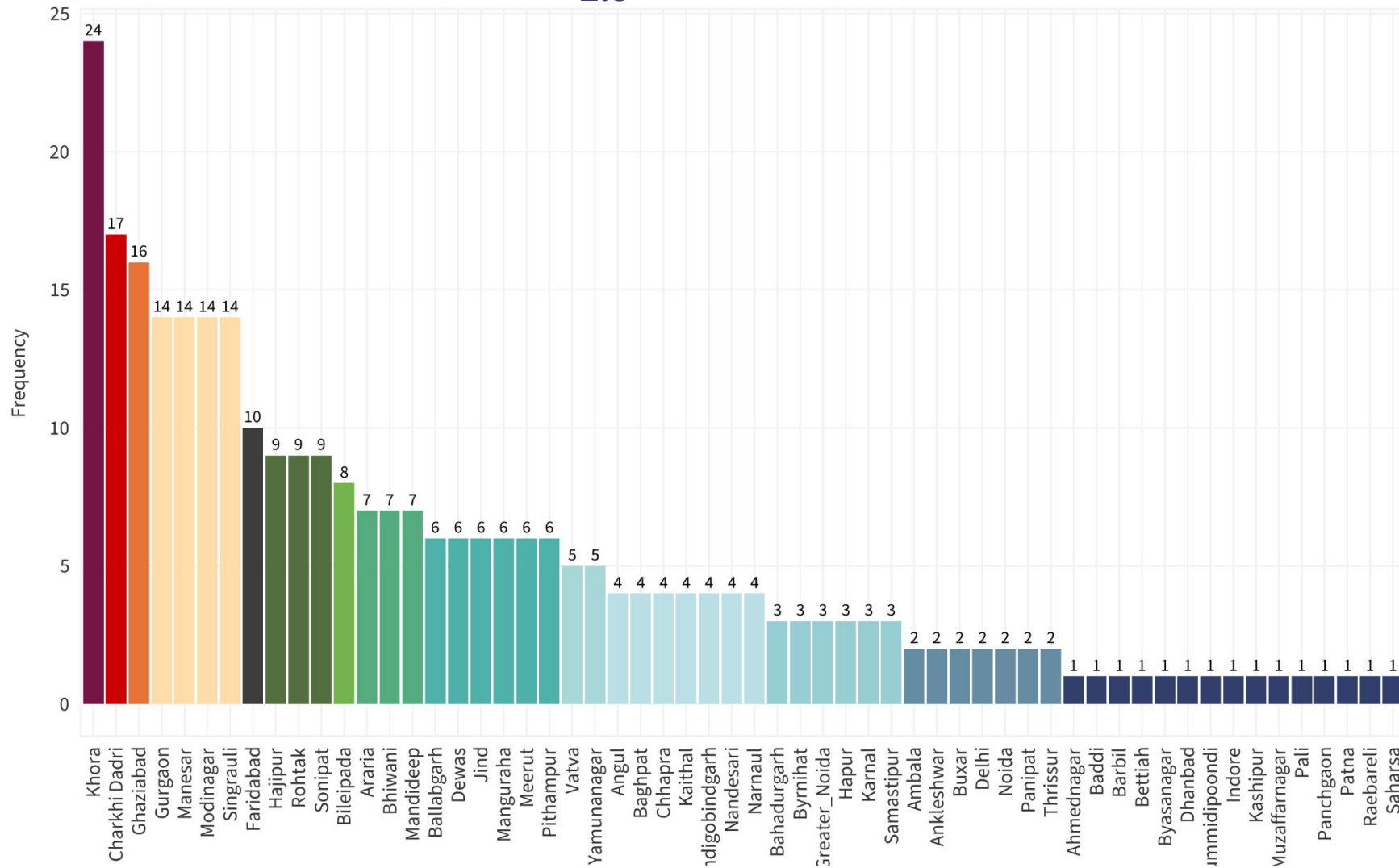
Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration - April 2026



Source: CCR

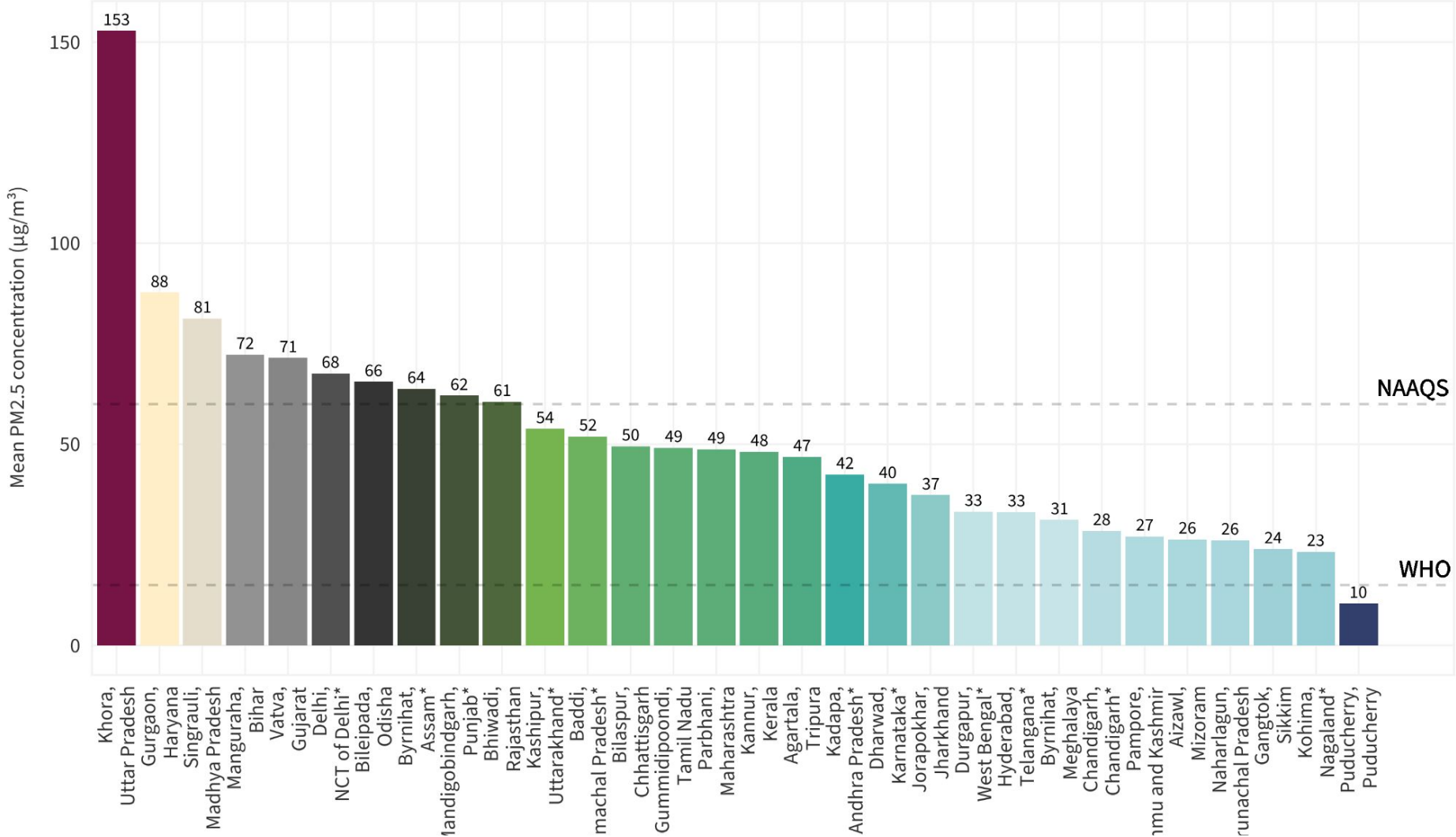


Frequency of appearance of respective cities in top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – April 2026



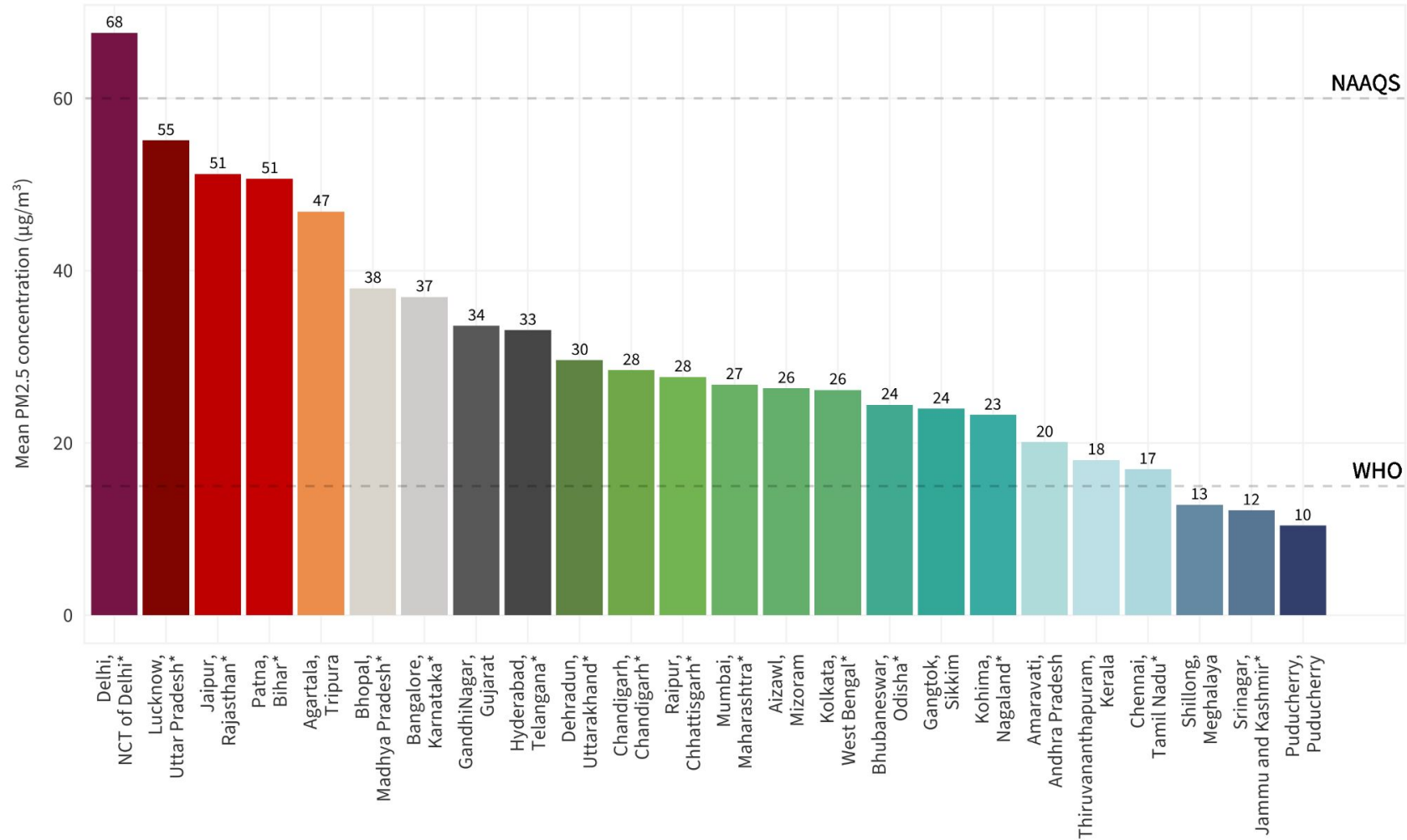
State-wise most polluted cities (PM_{2.5}, µg/m³) in India - April 2026

* indicates NCAP cities



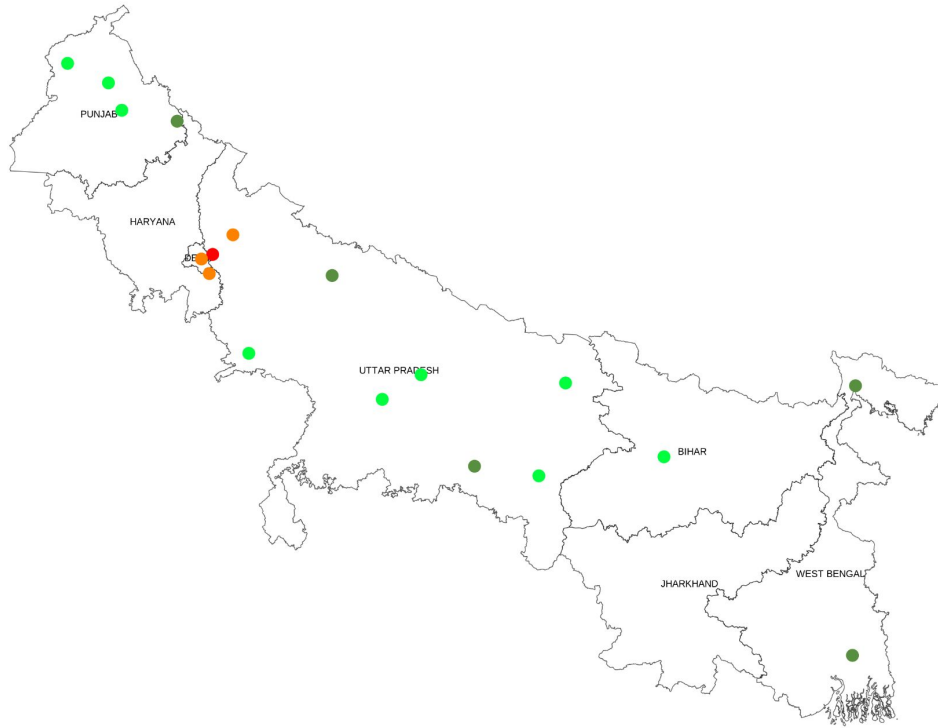
PM_{2.5} concentrations across state capital cities in India - April 2026

* indicates NCAP cities



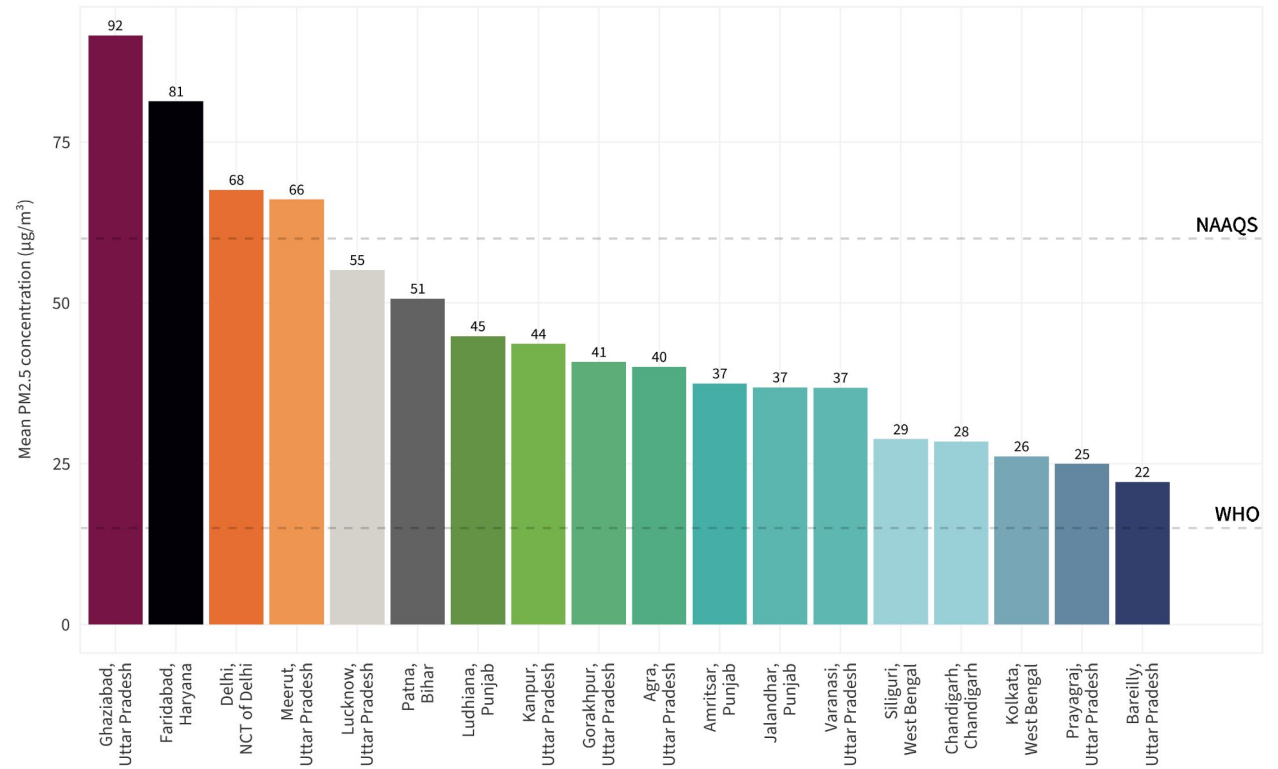
Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh); Dispur (Assam); Panaji (Goa); Shimla (Himachal Pradesh); Ranchi (Jharkhand); Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands); Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu); Leh (Ladakh); and Kavaratti (Lakshadweep) don't have an operational CAAQMS.

PM_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities with CAAQMS in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India – April 2026



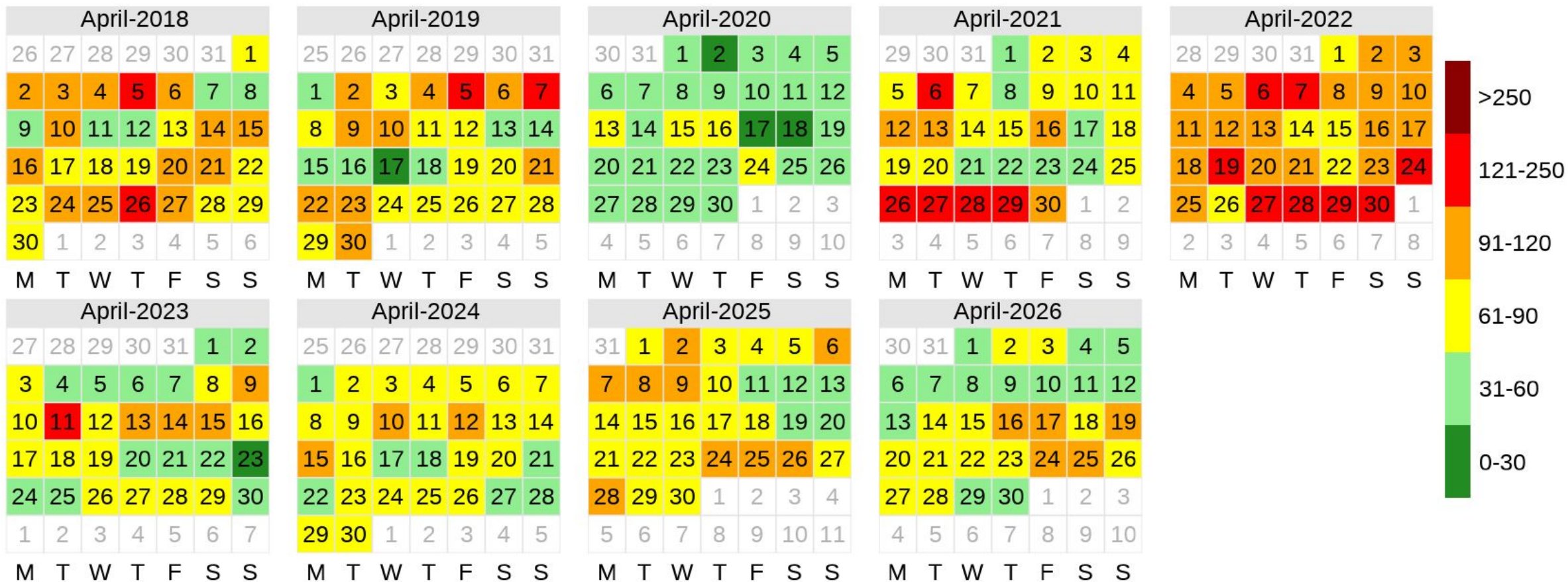
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PM_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India (with CAAQMS) - April 2026

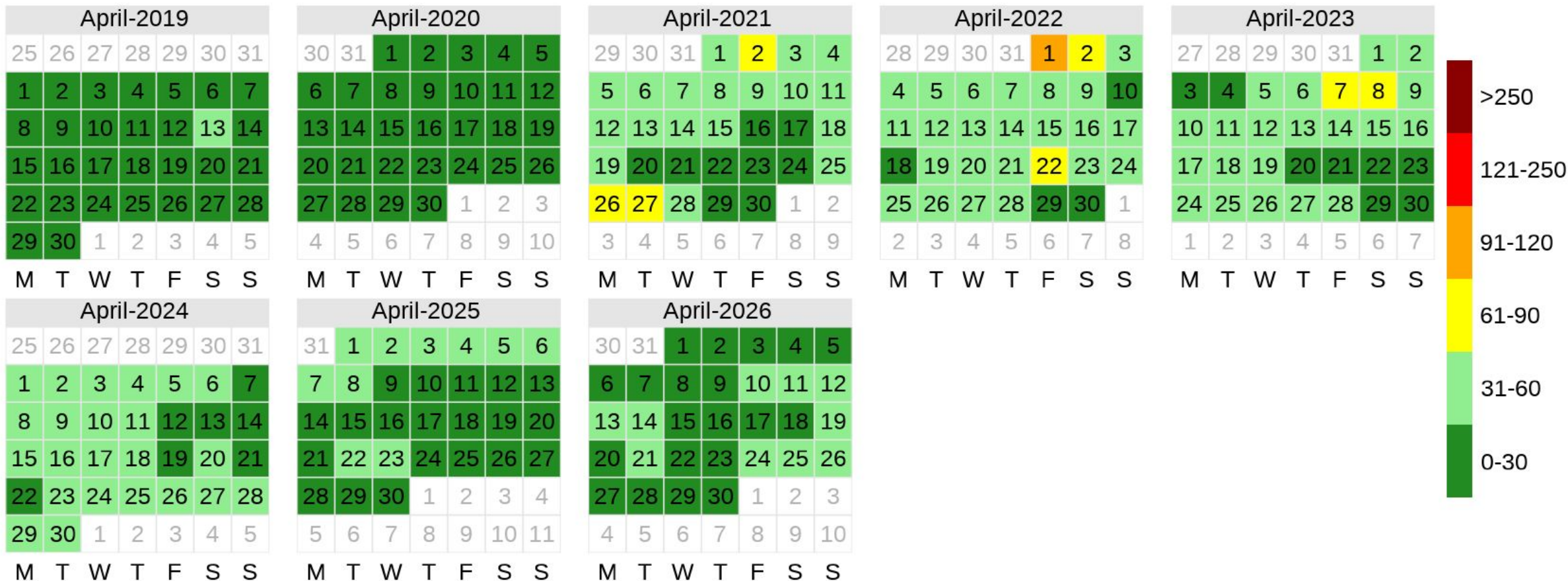


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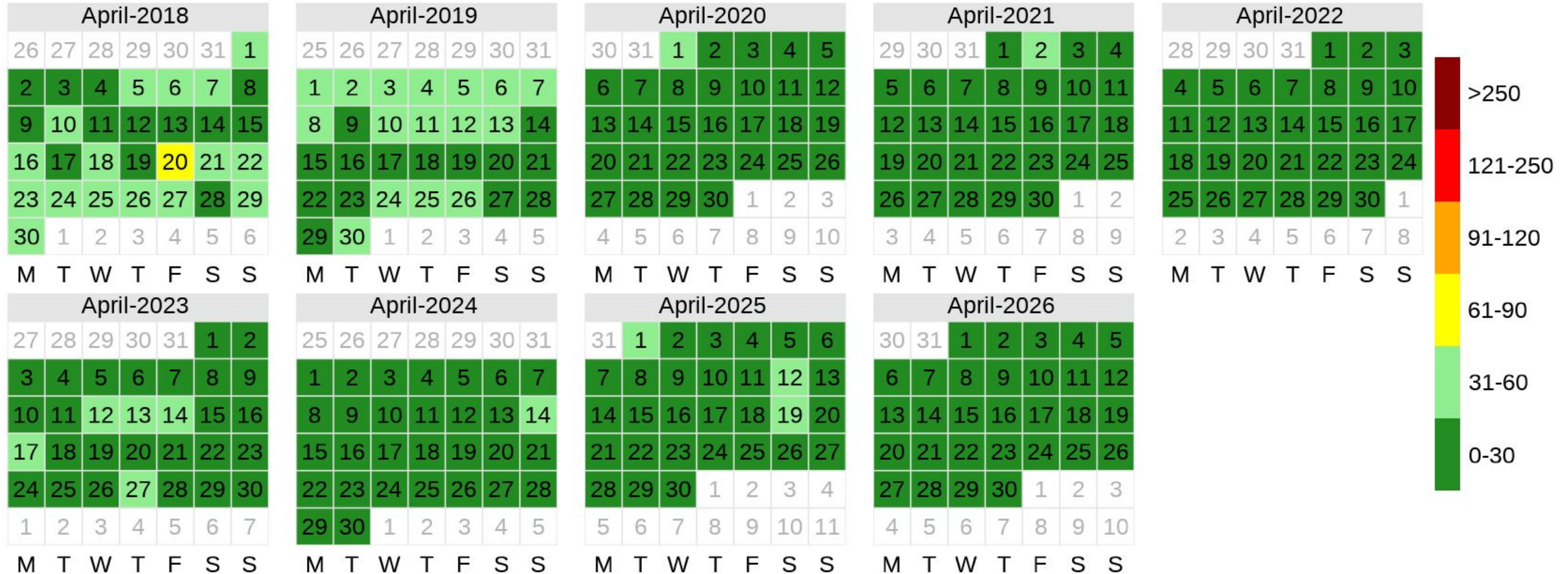
Ambient air quality status in Delhi – April 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



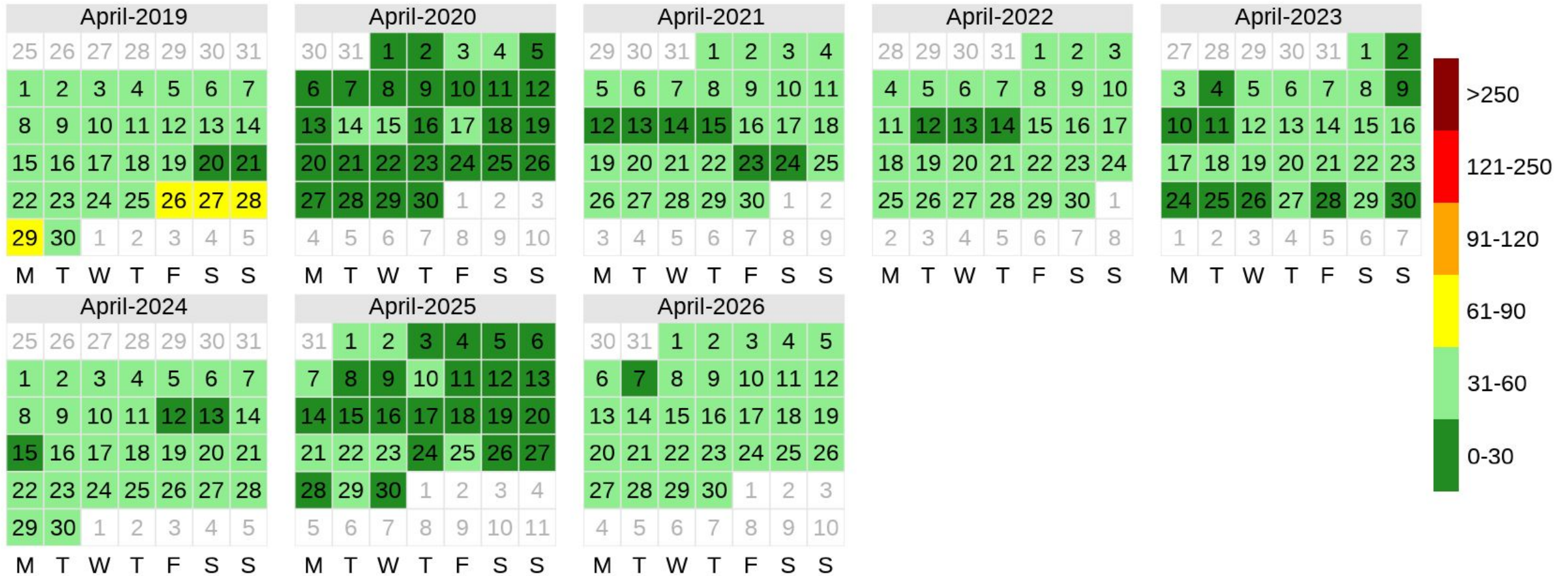
Ambient air quality status in Mumbai – April 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



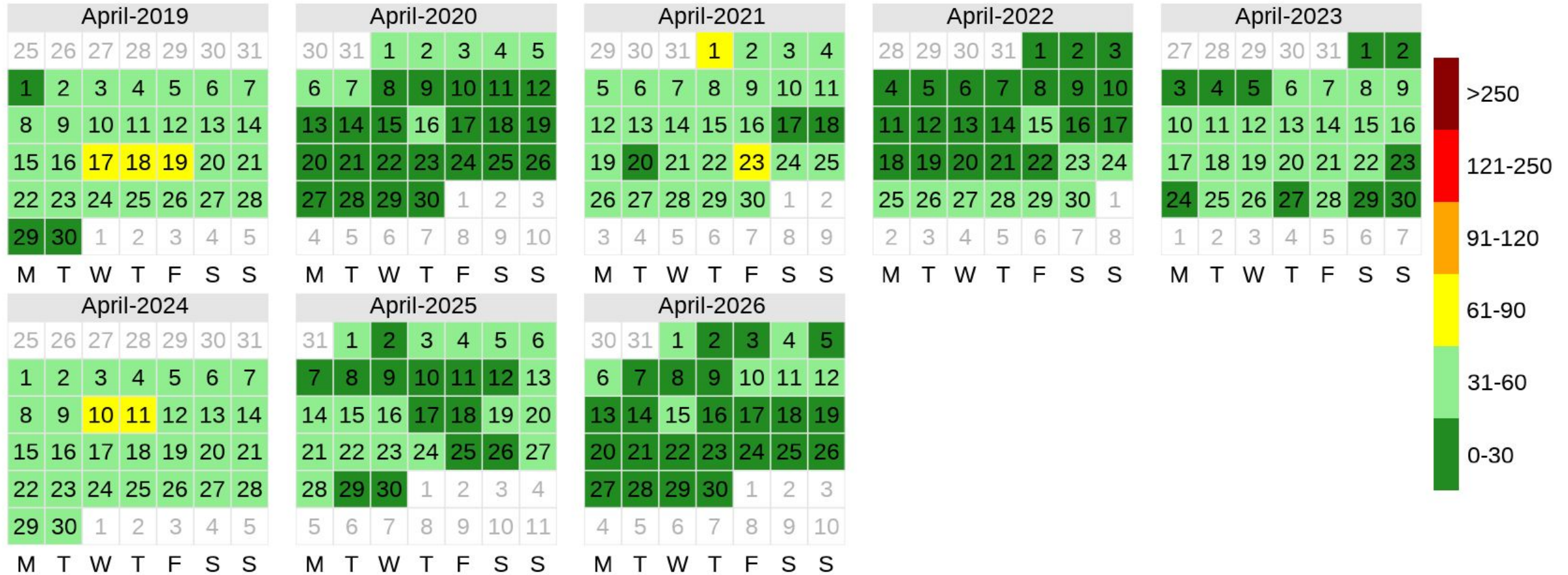
Ambient air quality status in Chennai – April 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



Ambient air quality status in Bangalore – April 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



Ambient air quality status in Kolkata – April 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



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

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