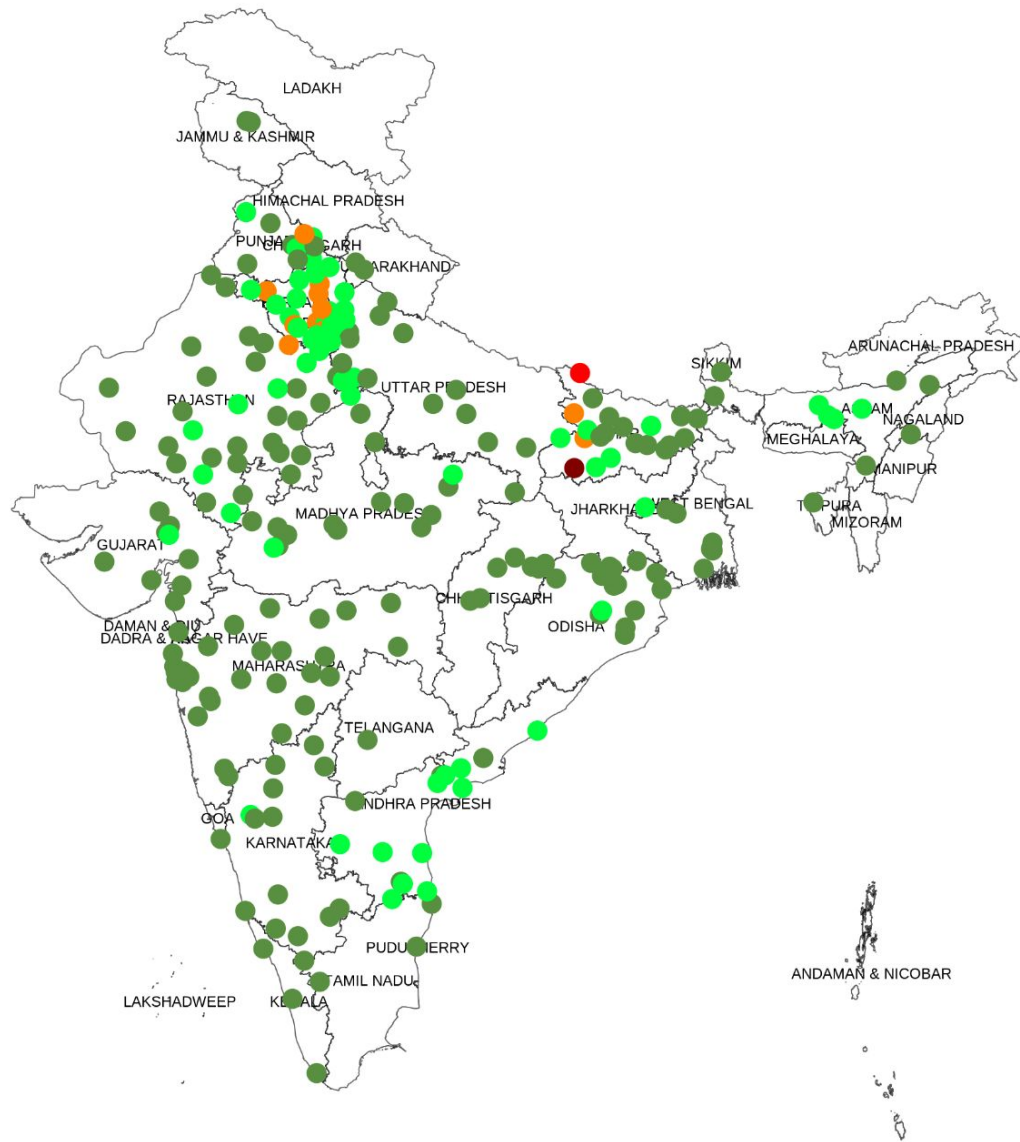




CREA

Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

Monthly ambient air quality snapshot for India

July 2026

● Good ● Satisfactory ● Moderate ● Poor ● Very Poor

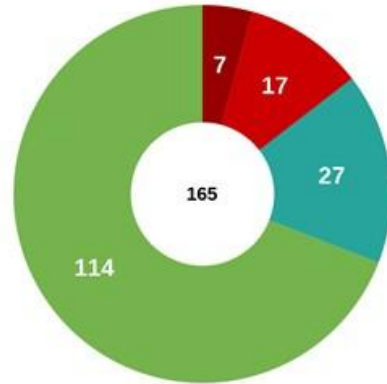
Key highlights

- Compliance: In July 2026, 240 out of 256 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. Forty-one 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 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities (91 cities with more than 80% of days with data) complies with the India's daily NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, while 75 of 91 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, 140 cities reported monthly average PM_{2.5} levels above the WHO daily guideline. Seventeen cities exceeded the daily NAAQS.
- Most polluted city: **Aurangabad in Bihar ranked as the most polluted city in India in July 2026**, recording a monthly average PM_{2.5} concentration of 168 µg/m³, surpassing the daily NAAQS limit of 60 µg/m³ for 21 days out of total 28 days of observation in the month.
 - Aurangabad recorded eight days in the 'Severe' category, five days in the 'Very Poor' category, three days in the 'Poor' category, five days in 'Moderate' category, four days in 'Satisfactory', and three day in 'Good' category.
 - **Manguraha in Bihar was the second most polluted city in India during July 2026, with monthly average PM_{2.5} of 96 µg/m³.**
 - In July 2026, Manguraha recorded three days in the 'Severe' category, four days in the 'Very Poor' category, one day in the 'Poor' category, four days in the 'Moderate' category, eight days in the 'Satisfactory' category and ten day in 'Good' category.
 - Rupnagar, Khora, Gurugram, Panipat, Siwan, Sonipat, Charkhi Dadri, and Ballabgarh were in the top 10 cities, with Rupnagar and Ballabgarh in third and tenth places, respectively.

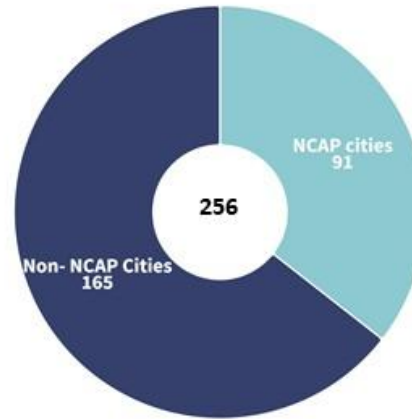
- **Haryana accounted for five of the ten most polluted cities in July 2026, followed by Bihar with three cities, then one each in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.**
- State with most polluted cities: Among all Indian states, Haryana had the highest number of cities exceeding NAAQS, with 10 out of 25 recording $PM_{2.5}$ higher than the standards. Of these cities, one was in the 'Good', 14 were in the 'Satisfactory' category, and 10 cities were in the 'Moderate' category. Bihar had the second highest number with four out of 21 cities exceeding NAAQS.
- Cleanest city: **Dombivli in Maharashtra was recorded as the cleanest city in India during July 2026**, with a monthly average $PM_{2.5}$ of $4 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, followed by Kunjemura in Chhattisgarh with a monthly average $PM_{2.5}$ of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The top 10 cleanest cities comprise Chhattisgarh and Karnataka with two cities each, followed by one each from Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, and Sikkim.
- Frequency in top 10 polluted cities: **A total of 51 cities were featured in the daily top 10 most polluted cities list in July 2026**, topped by Khora (22 days), followed by Aurangabad (20 days), Gurugram (18 days), Panipat (16 days), Ballabgarh (15 days), Sonipat (14 days), Narnaul (13 days), Charkhi Dadri (12 days), Manesar (11 days), Bahadurgarh (10 days), Gummidipoondi (10 days), Karnal (10 days), and Panchgaon (10 days).
- Megacities: Delhi ($39 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Chennai ($24 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Kolkata ($23 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Bangalore ($20 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and Mumbai ($15 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), all recorded monthly average $PM_{2.5}$ levels below the daily standard.

Number of cities vs. frequency of days with PM_{2.5} concentration above NAAQS and WHO guidelines – July 2026

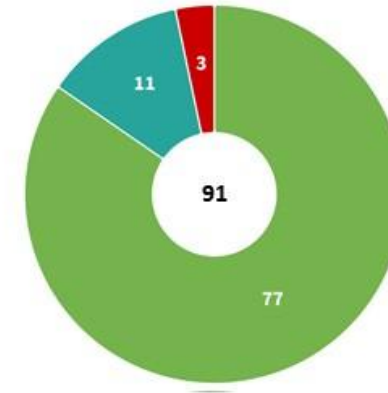
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



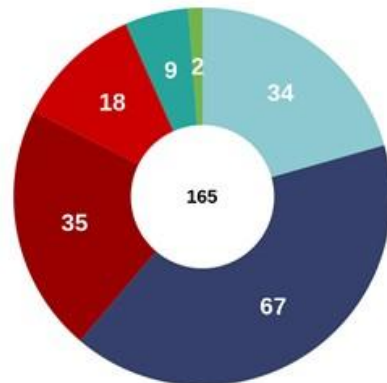
Total # of cities with >80% of the days
with CAAQMS data



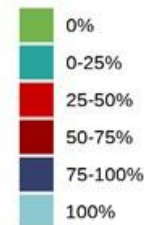
Categorisation of NCAP cities
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



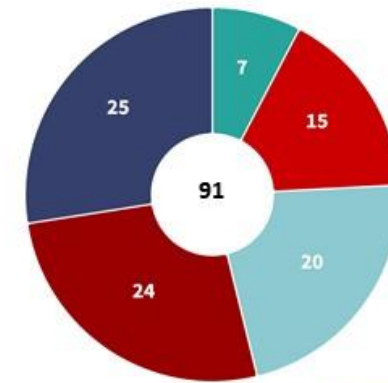
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities
against compliance to WHO guidelines



% of days above standard



Categorisation of NCAP cities
against compliance to WHO guidelines



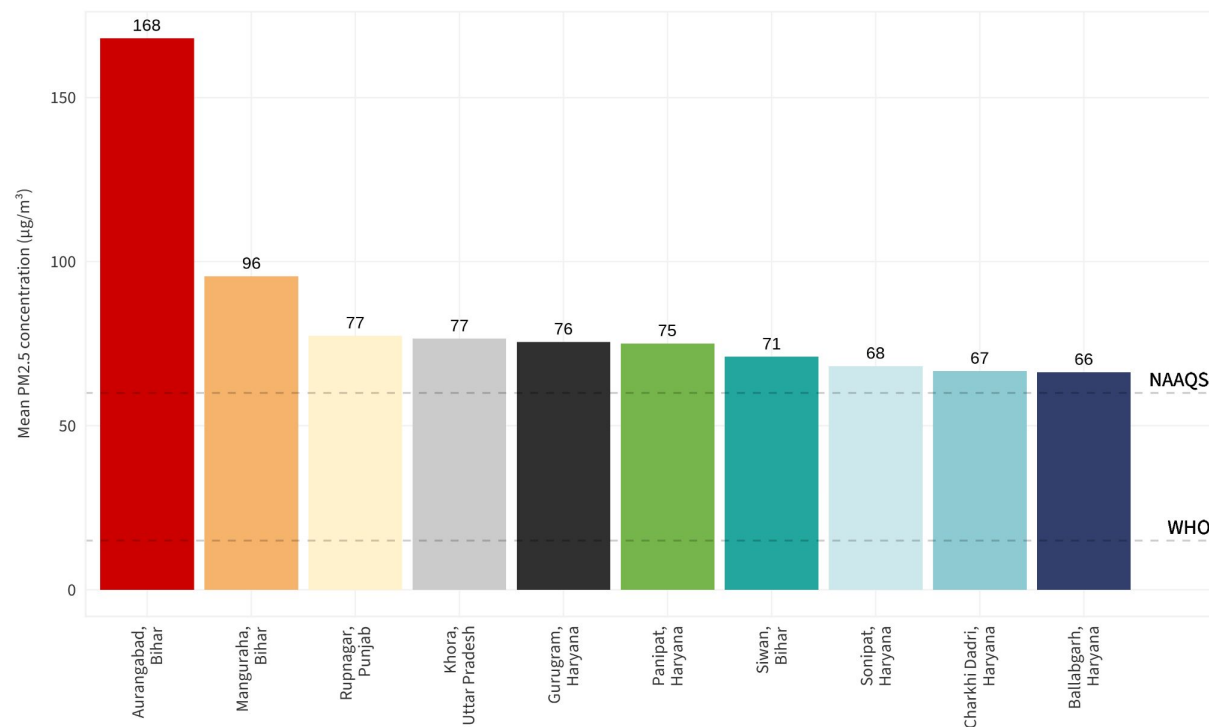
Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – July 2026

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

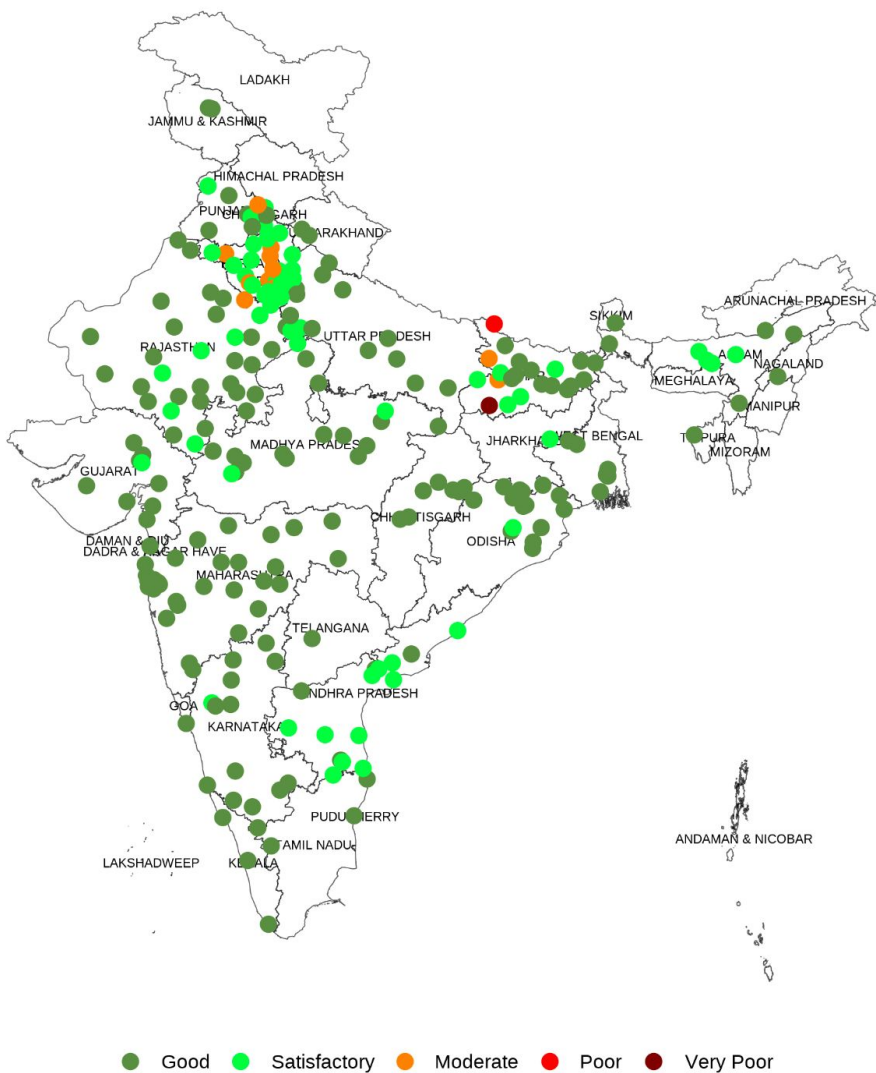
City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Aurangabad	3	4	5	3	5	8
Manguraha	10	8	4	1	4	3
Rupnagar	0	15	3	2	7	0
Khora	0	8	13	7	1	0
Gurugram	0	9	12	7	3	0
Panipat	4	13	5	3	6	0
Siwan	9	19	0	1	0	2
Sonipat	10	7	5	3	5	0
Charkhi Dadri	1	15	8	5	2	0
Ballabgarh	3	12	9	7	0	0

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

* indicates NCAP cities



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



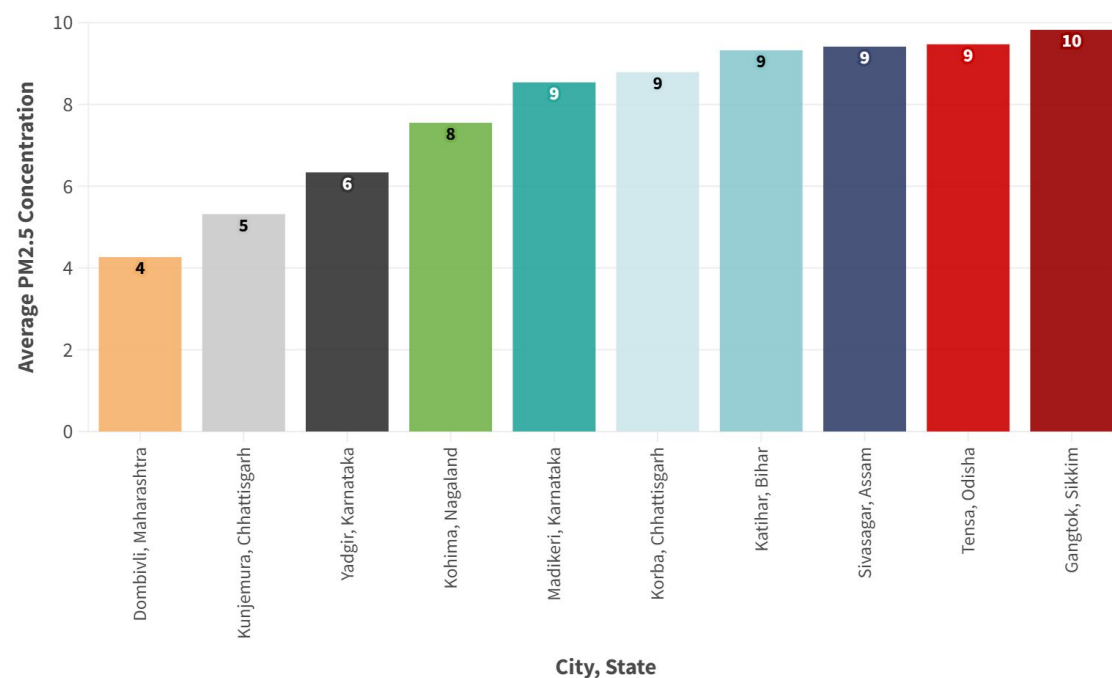
State/UT	Number of cities in AQI category (PM _{2.5} µg/m ³)				
	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very Poor (121-250)
Andhra Pradesh	4	10	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	0	0	0
Assam	2	4	0	0	0
Bihar	12	5	2	1	1
Chandigarh	1	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	8	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	9	1	0	0	0
Haryana	1	14	10	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	2	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	1	0	0	0
Karnataka	14	1	0	0	0
Kerala	3	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	13	2	0	0	0
Maharashtra	34	0	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	1	0	0	0
NCT of Delhi	0	1	0	0	0
Nagaland	1	0	0	0	0
Odisha	15	1	0	0	0
Puducherry	1	0	0	0	0
Punjab	4	2	1	0	0
Rajasthan	26	8	0	0	0
Sikkim	1	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	2	1	0	0	0
Telangana	1	0	0	0	0
Tripura	1	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	12	10	1	0	0
Uttarakhand	3	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	7	0	0	0	0

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

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

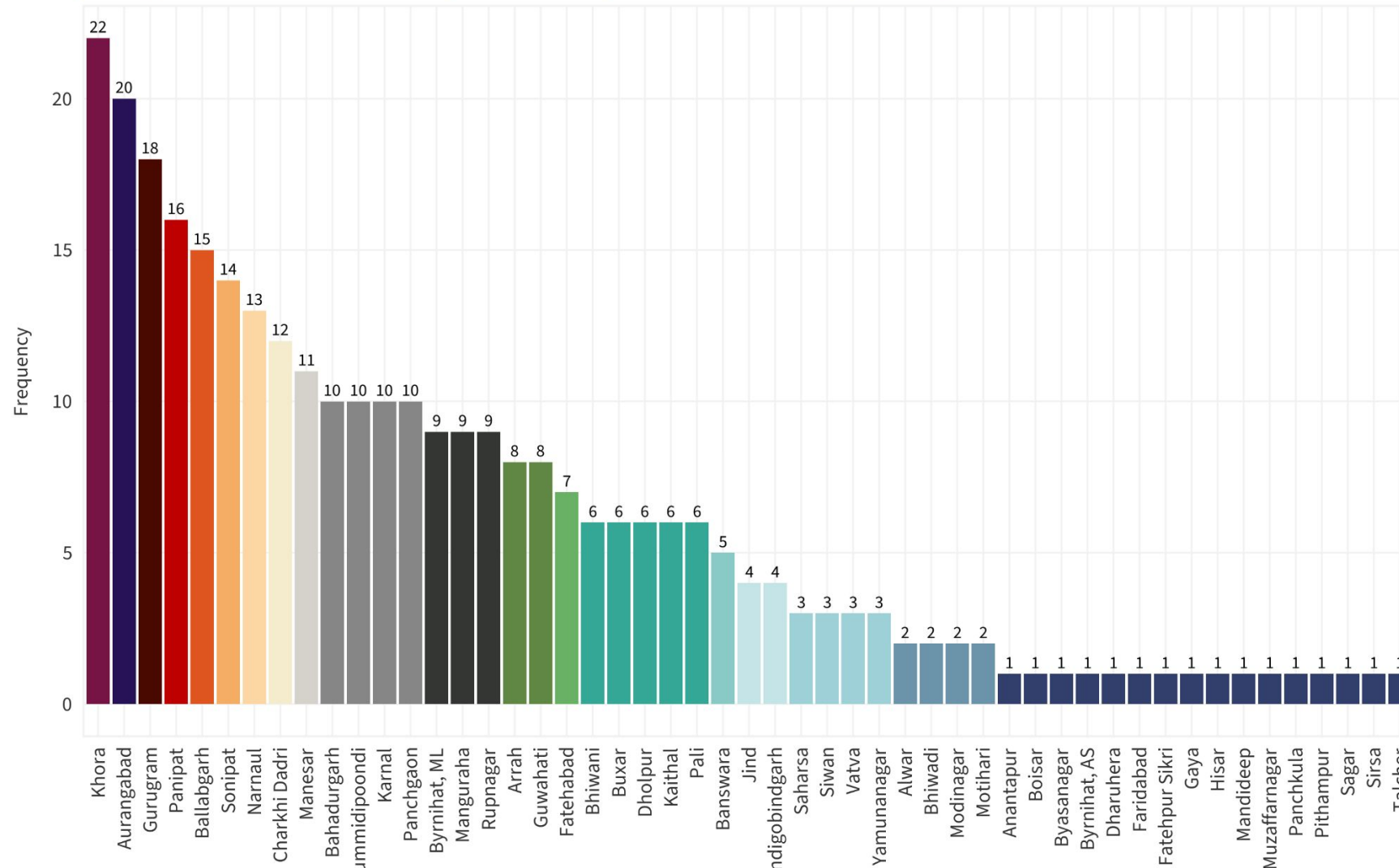
City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Dombivli	30	0	0	0	0	0
Kunjemura	31	0	0	0	0	0
Yadgir	29	0	0	0	0	0
Kohima	31	0	0	0	0	0
Madikeri	31	0	0	0	0	0
Korba	31	0	0	0	0	0
Katihar	31	0	0	0	0	0
Sivasagar	28	0	0	0	0	0
Tensa	28	0	0	0	0	0
Gangtok	31	0	0	0	0	0

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



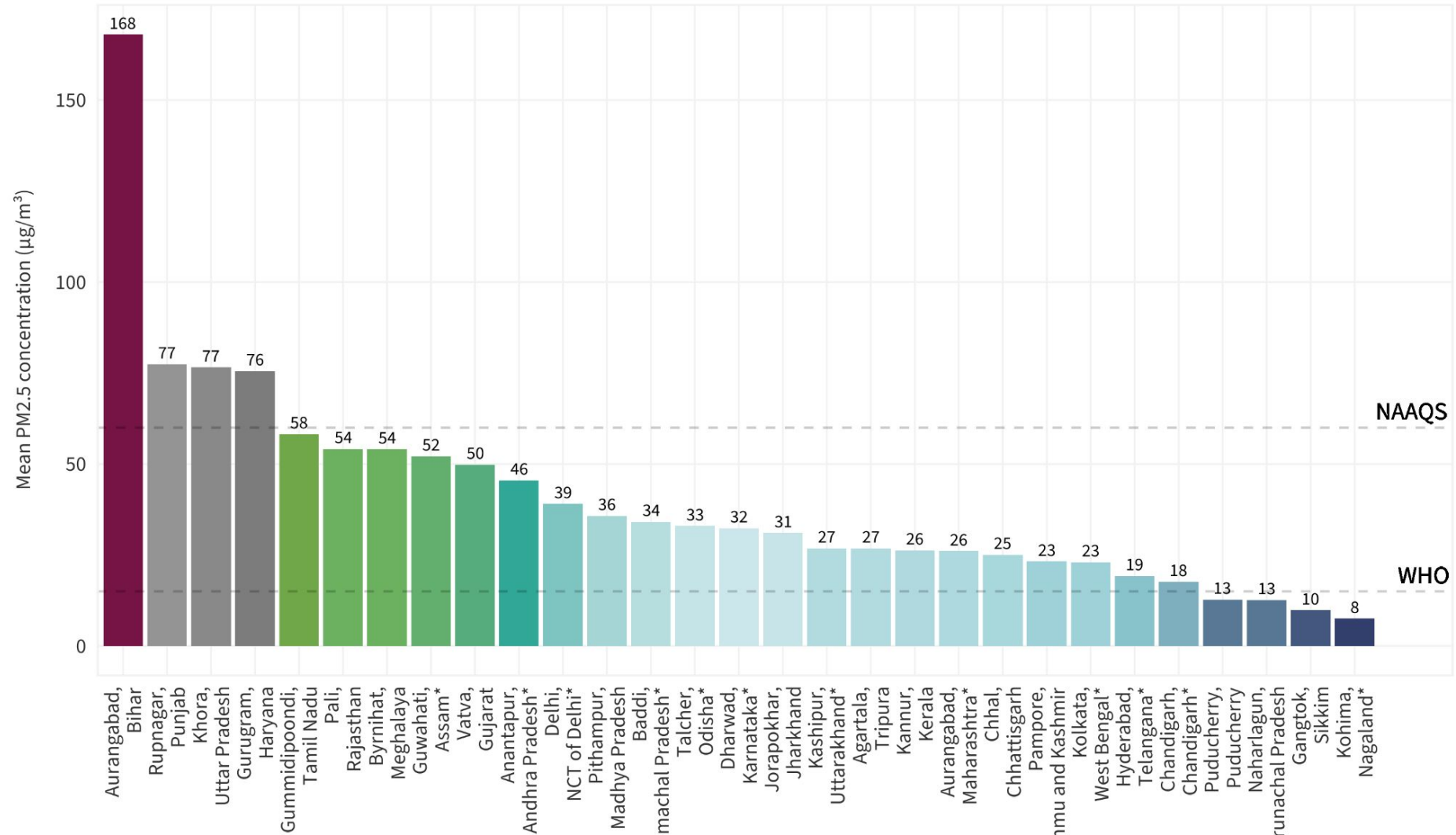
Source: CCR

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



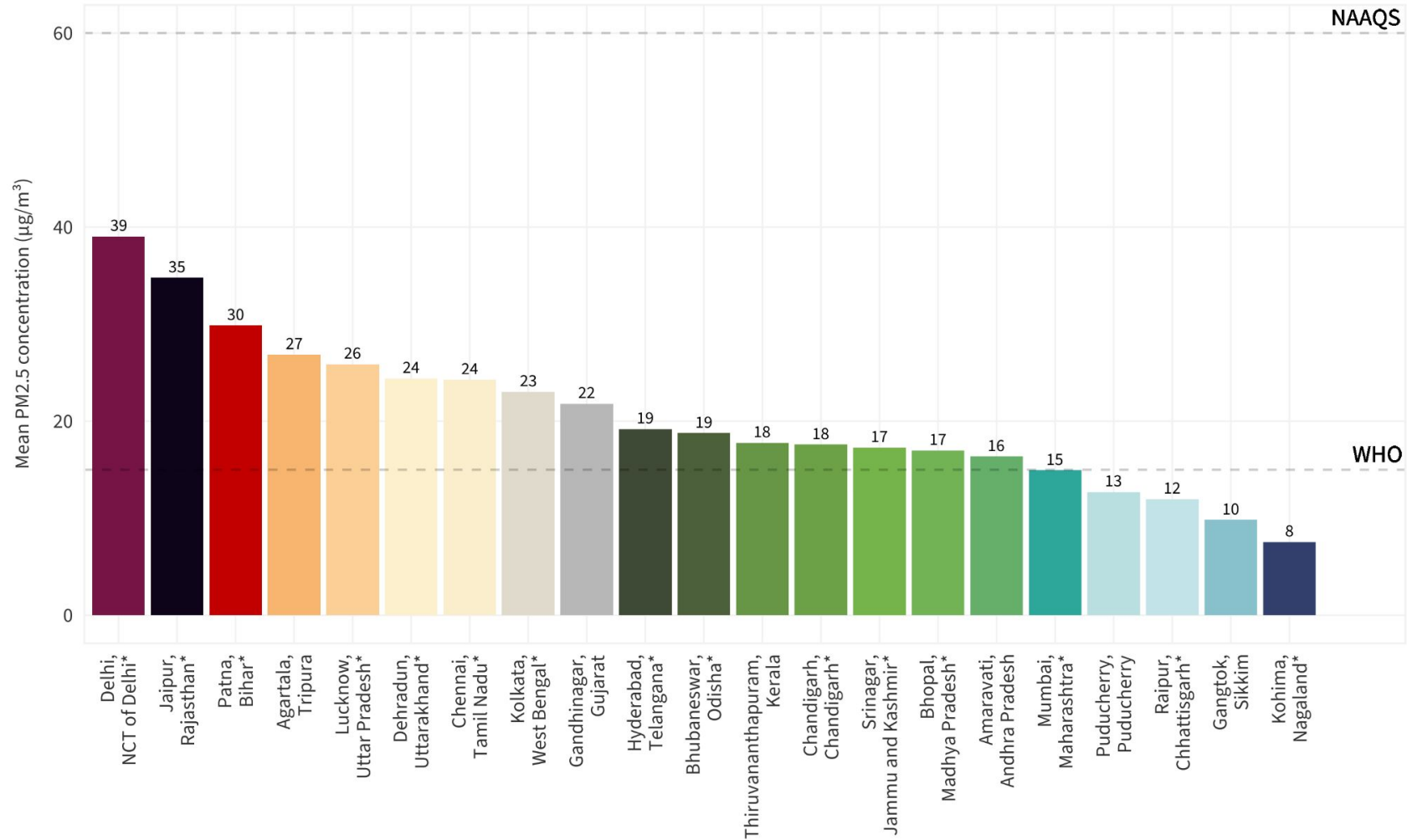
State-wise most polluted cities (PM_{2.5}, µg/m³) in India - July 2026

* indicates NCAP cities



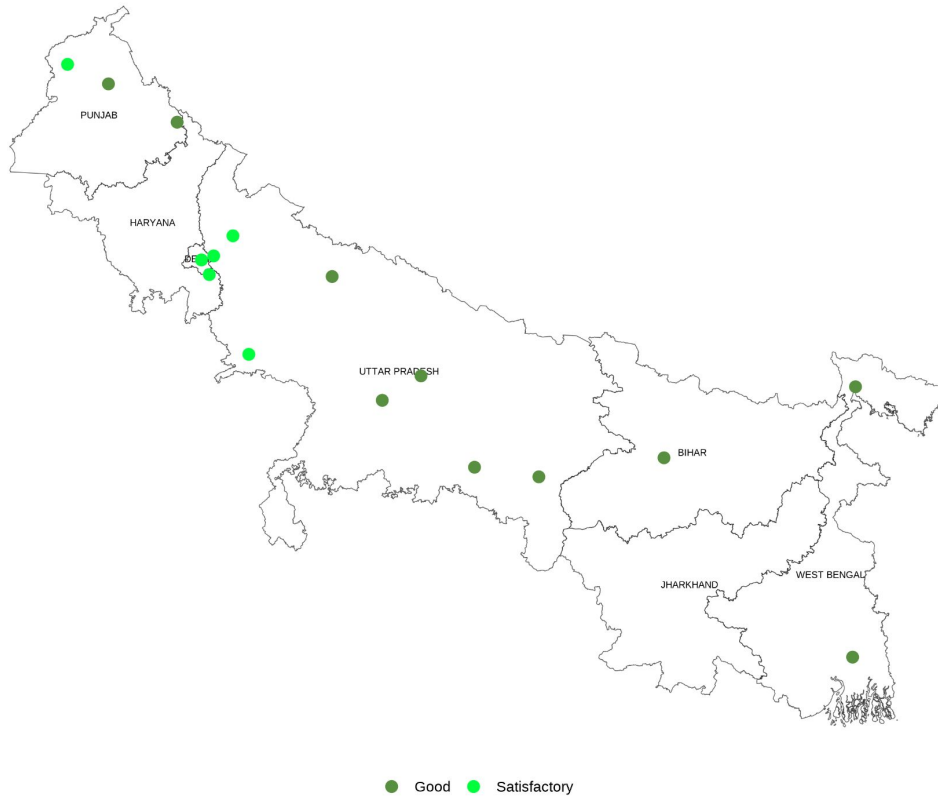
PM_{2.5} concentrations across state capital cities in India - July 2026

* indicates NCAP cities

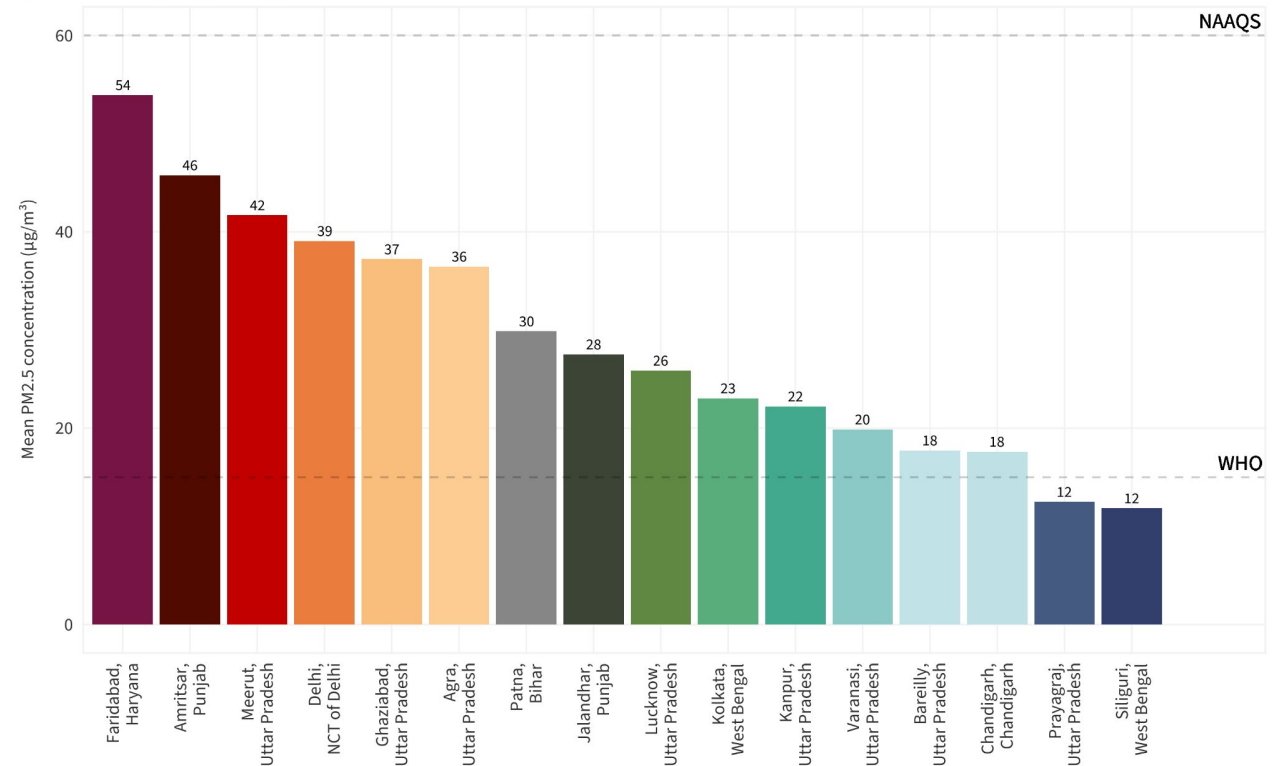


Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh); Dispur (Assam); Panaji (Goa); Shimla (Himachal Pradesh); Ranchi (Jharkhand); Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands); Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu); Leh (Ladakh); and Kavaratti (Lakshadweep) don't have an operational CAAQMS.

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

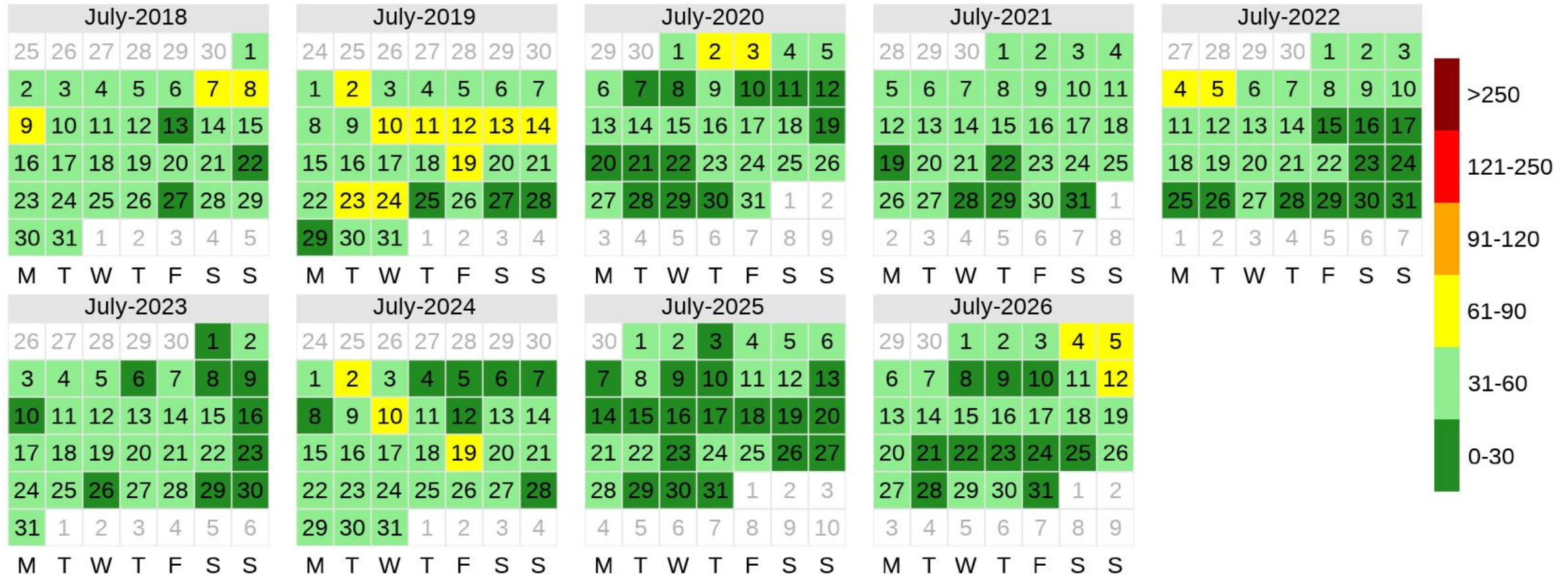


PM_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India (with CAAQMS) - July 2026



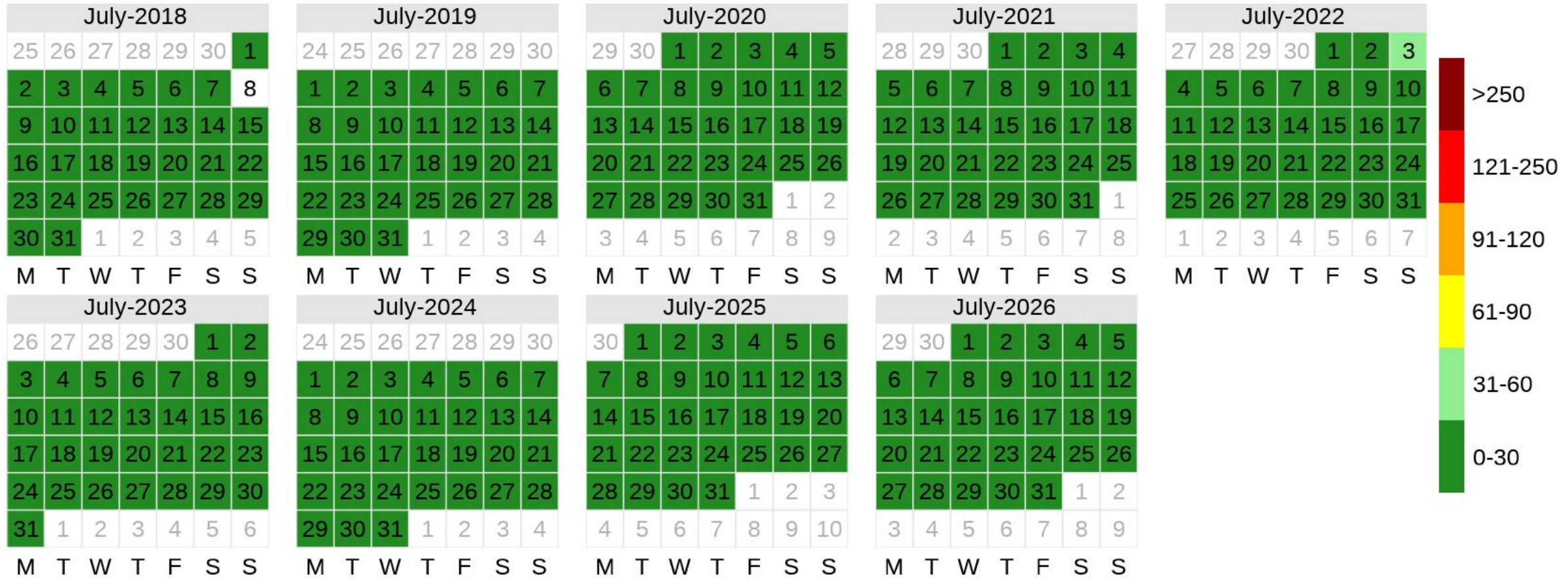
Ambient air quality status in Delhi – July 2026

(PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)

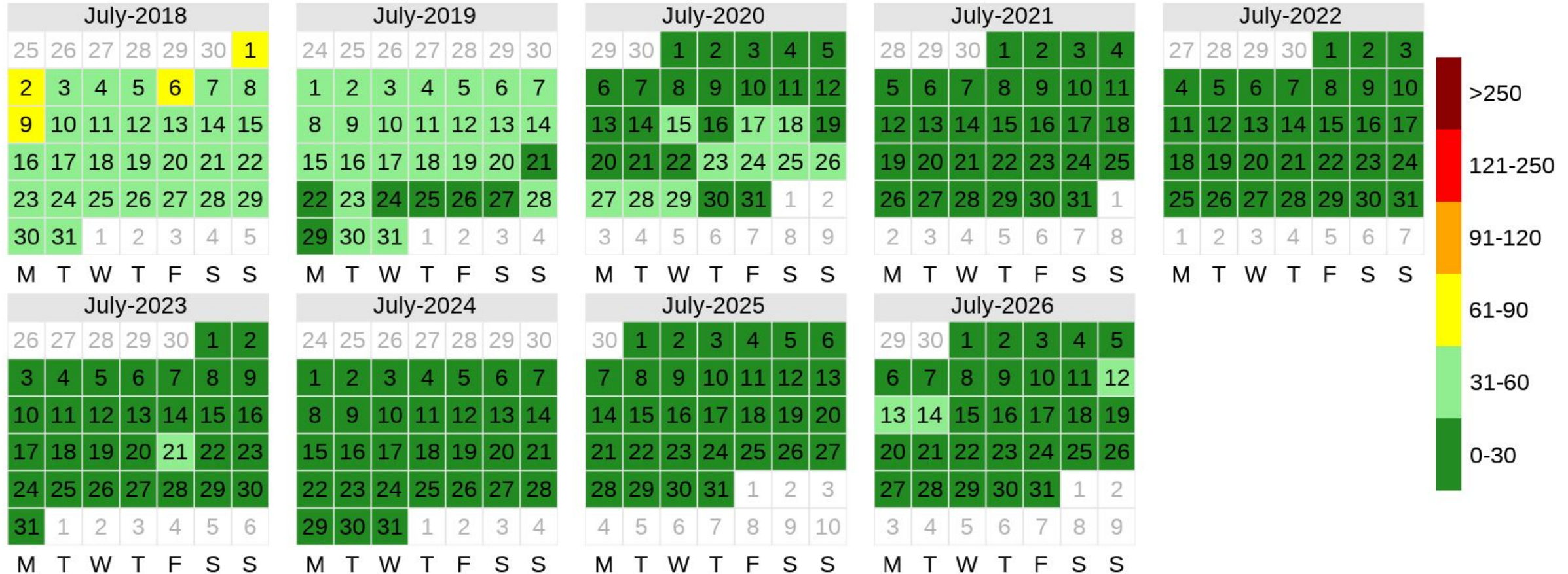


Ambient air quality status in Mumbai – July 2026

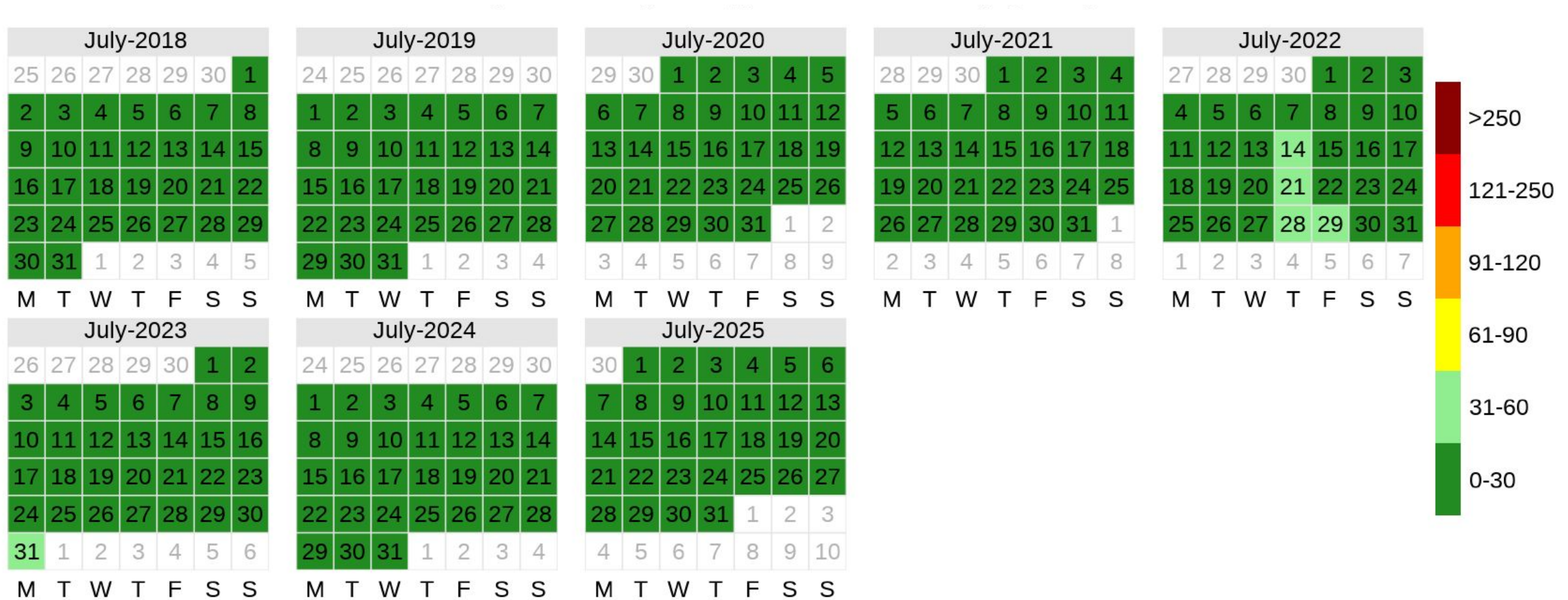
(PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



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

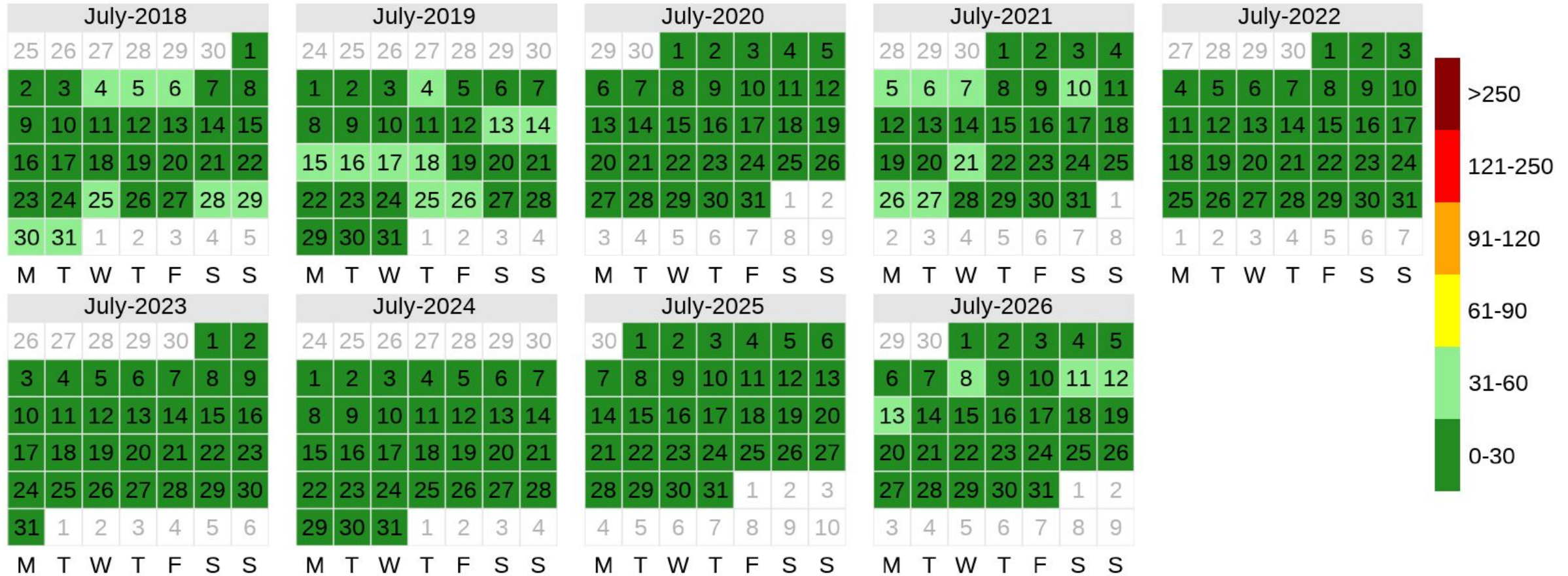


Ambient air quality status in Bangalore – July 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



Ambient air quality status in Kolkata – July 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

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](#)