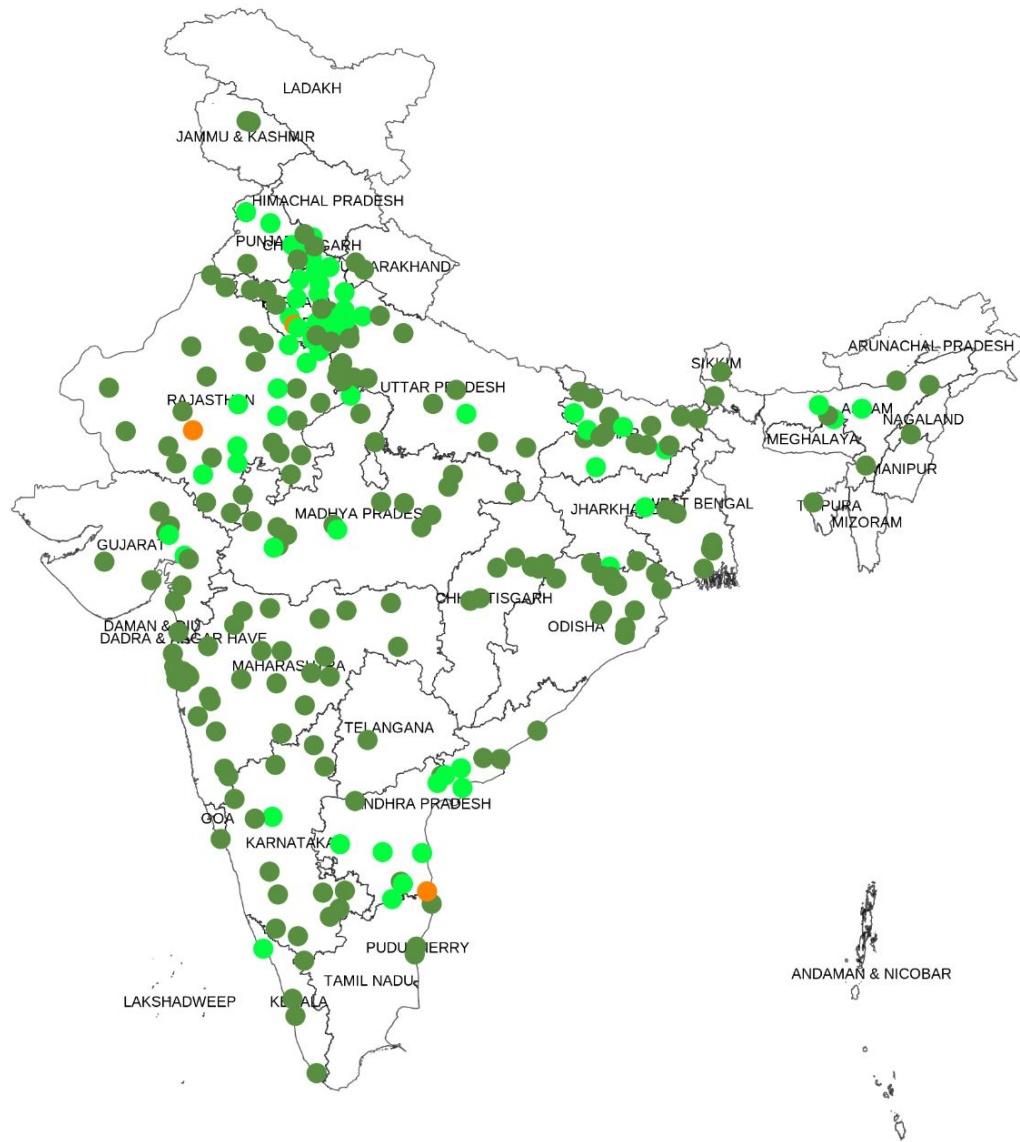




● Good ● Satisfactory ● Moderate



CREA

Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air

Monthly ambient air quality snapshot for India

August 2026

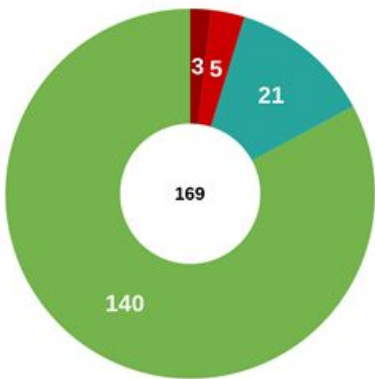
Key highlights

- Compliance: In August 2026, 255 out of 258 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-three 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 (89 cities with more than 80% of days with data) complies with the India's daily NAAQS for PM_{2.5}, while 75 of 89 NCAP cities exceeded the WHO's daily guideline.
 - Non-NCAP cities: Among the 169 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. Three cities exceeded the daily NAAQS.
- Most polluted city: **Charkhi Dadri in Haryana ranked as the most polluted city in India in August 2026**, recording a monthly average PM_{2.5} concentration of 68 µg/m³, surpassing the daily NAAQS limit of 60 µg/m³ for 18 days out of total 31 days of observation in the month.
 - Charkhi Dadri recorded five days in 'Poor' category, 13 days in 'Moderate' category, 13 days in 'Satisfactory' category.
 - **Gummidipoondi in Tamil Nadu was the second most polluted city in India during August 2026, with monthly average PM_{2.5} of 62 µg/m³.**
 - In August 2026, Gummidipoondi recorded 16 days in the 'Moderate' category, and 15 days in the 'Satisfactory' category.

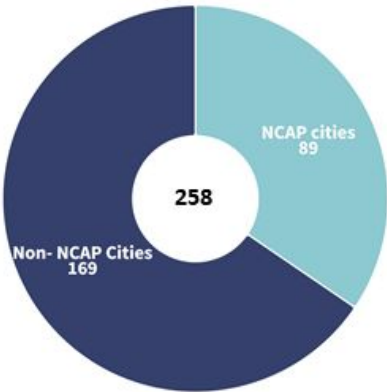
- Pali, Khora, Byrnihat, Chhapra, Faridabad, Vatva, Gurugram, and Mandi Gobindgarh were in the top 10 cities, with Pali and Mandi Gobindgarh in third and tenth places, respectively.
- **Haryana accounted for three of the ten most polluted cities in August 2026, followed by one city each in Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.**
- State with most polluted cities: Among all Indian states, each one city in states such as Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and also one in Rajasthan exceeds the national ambient air quality standards of $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. All three of those cities lie under the ‘Moderate’ category.
- Cleanest city: **Dombivli in Maharashtra was recorded as the cleanest city in India during August 2026**, with a monthly average $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ of $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, followed by Kunjemura in Chhattisgarh with a monthly average $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ of $7 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The top 10 cleanest cities comprise four cities in Karnataka, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra with two cities each, and one each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- Frequency in top 10 polluted cities: **A total of 53 cities were featured in the daily top 10 most polluted cities list in August 2026**, topped by Charkhi Dadri (23 days), followed by Gummidipoondi (21 days), Pali (20 days), Byrnihat in Assam (19 days), Manesar (17 days), Khora (16 days), Samastipur (15 days), Faridabad (13 days), Mandi Gobindgarh (10 days), Vatva (12 days), Byrnihat in Meghalaya (11 days), Panipat (11 days), Chhapra (10 days), and Gurugram (10 days) .
- Megacities: Delhi ($35 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Kolkata ($23 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Chennai ($20 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), Bangalore ($19 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), and Mumbai ($14 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) all recorded monthly average $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ levels below the daily standard.

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

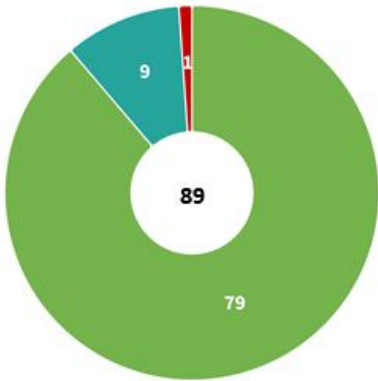
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



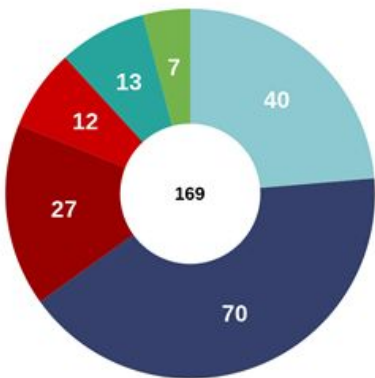
Total # of cities with >80% of the days
with CAAQMS data



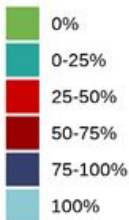
Categorisation of NCAP cities
against compliance to NAAQS guidelines



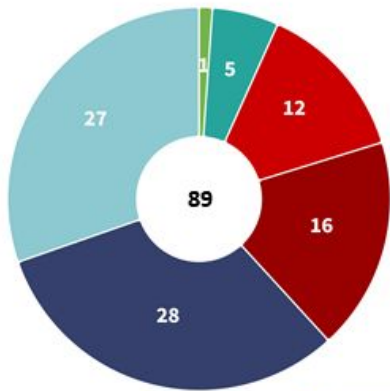
Categorisation of non-NCAP cities
against compliance to WHO guidelines



% of days above standard



Categorisation of NCAP cities
against compliance to WHO guidelines



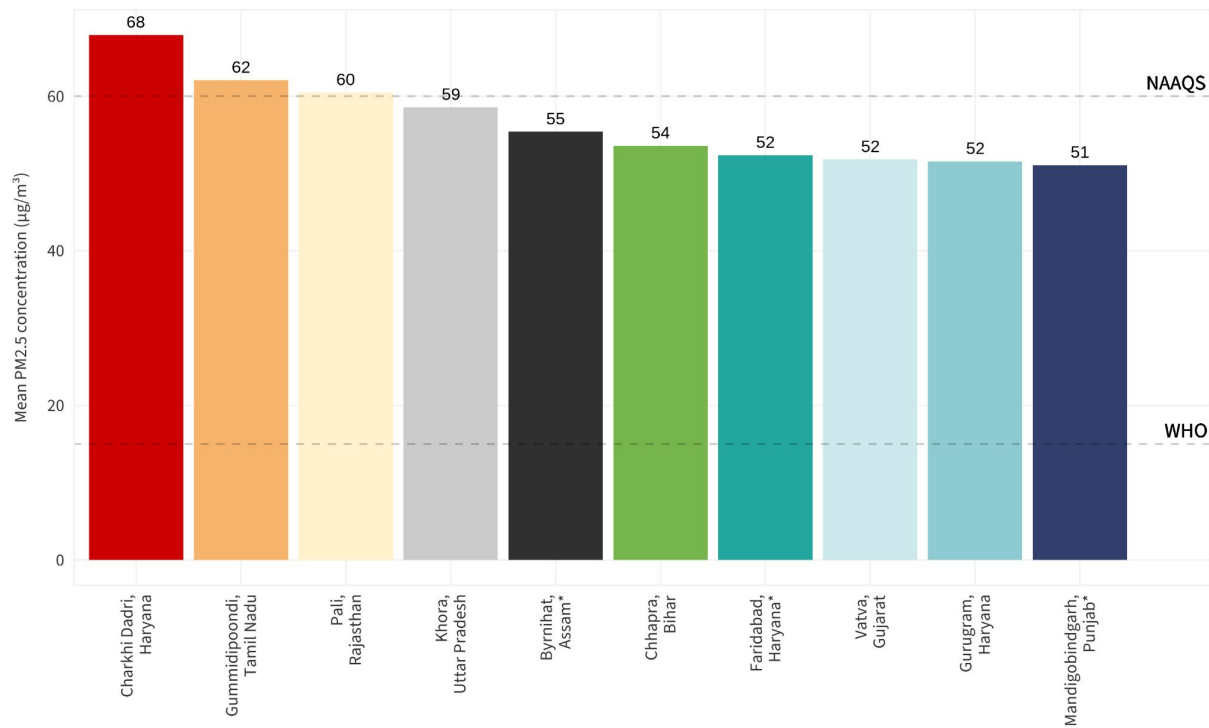
Top 10 most polluted cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – August 2026

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

City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Charkhi Dadri	0	13	13	5	0	0
Gummidipoondi	0	15	16	0	0	0
Pali	1	12	18	0	0	0
Khora	0	14	12	0	0	0
Byrnihat	0	25	6	0	0	0
Chhapra	0	31	0	0	0	0
Faridabad	0	23	8	0	0	0
Vatva	1	24	6	0	0	0
Gurugram	0	25	6	0	0	0
Mandi Gobindgarh	0	27	4	0	0	0

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

* indicates NCAP cities

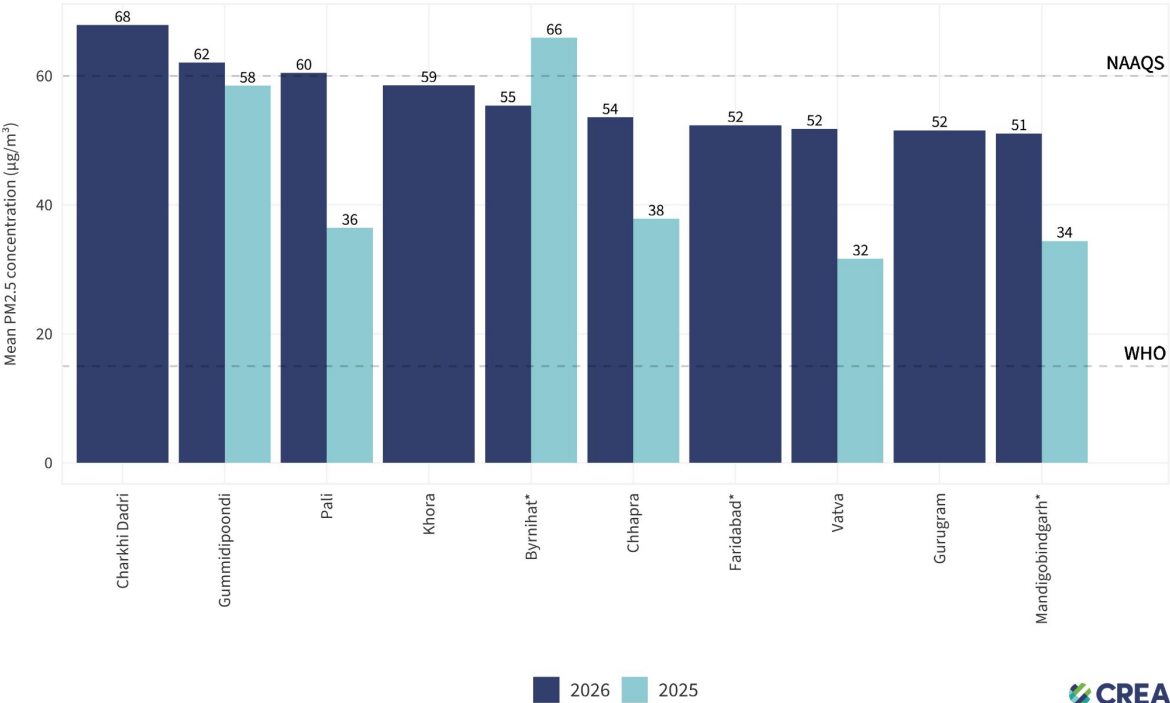


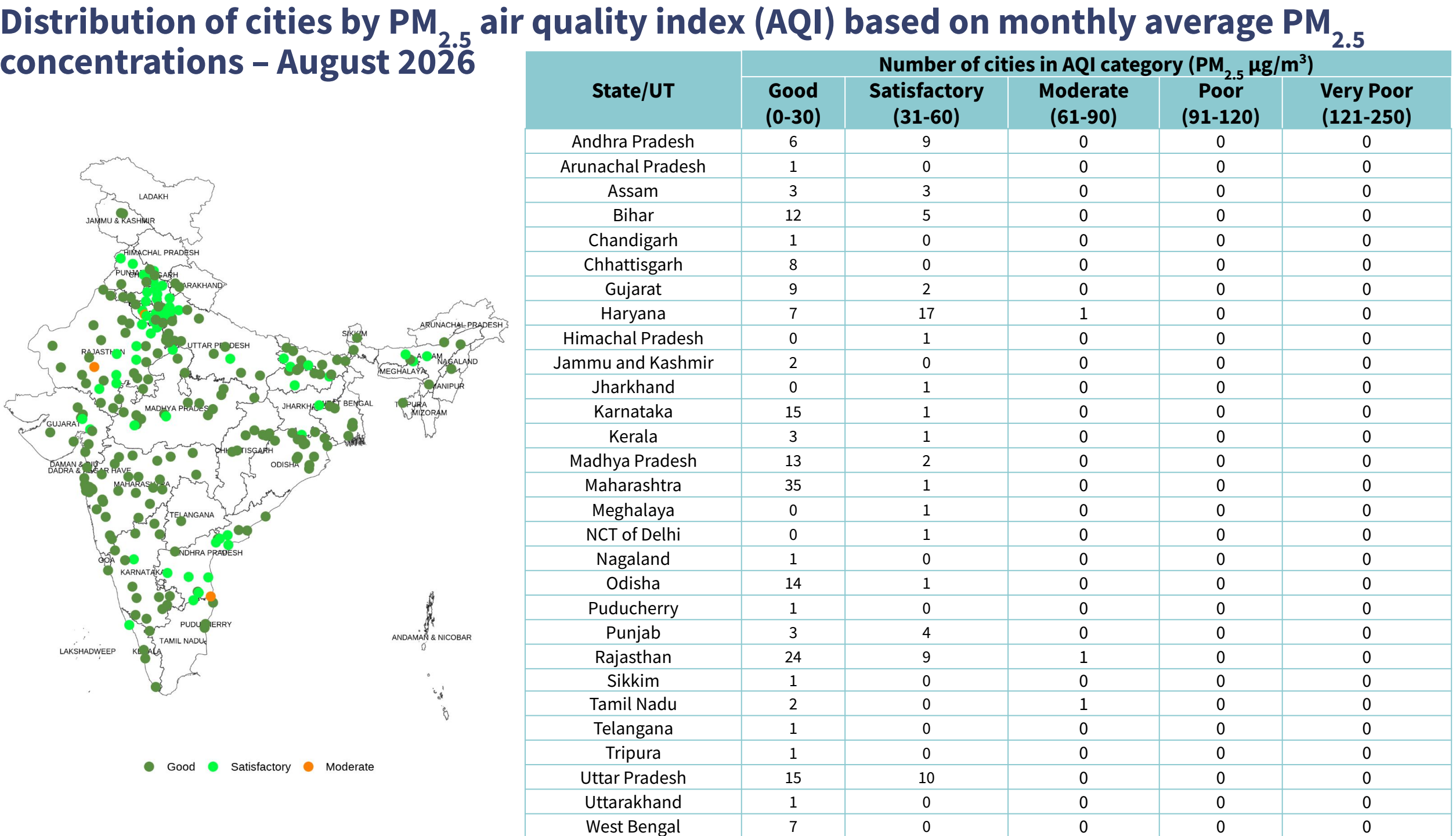
Status of PM_{2.5} concentration in August 2025 for top 10 most polluted cities in August 2026 across India

Days in respective AQI categories based on PM _{2.5} (µg/m³) – August 2025						
City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Byrnihat	0	5	25	0	0	0
Chhapra	9	17	4	0	0	0
Gummidipoondi	0	24	6	0	1	0
Mandi Gobindgarh	10	21	0	0	0	0
Pali	6	25	0	0	0	0
Vatva	10	18	0	0	0	0

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

* indicates NCAP cities



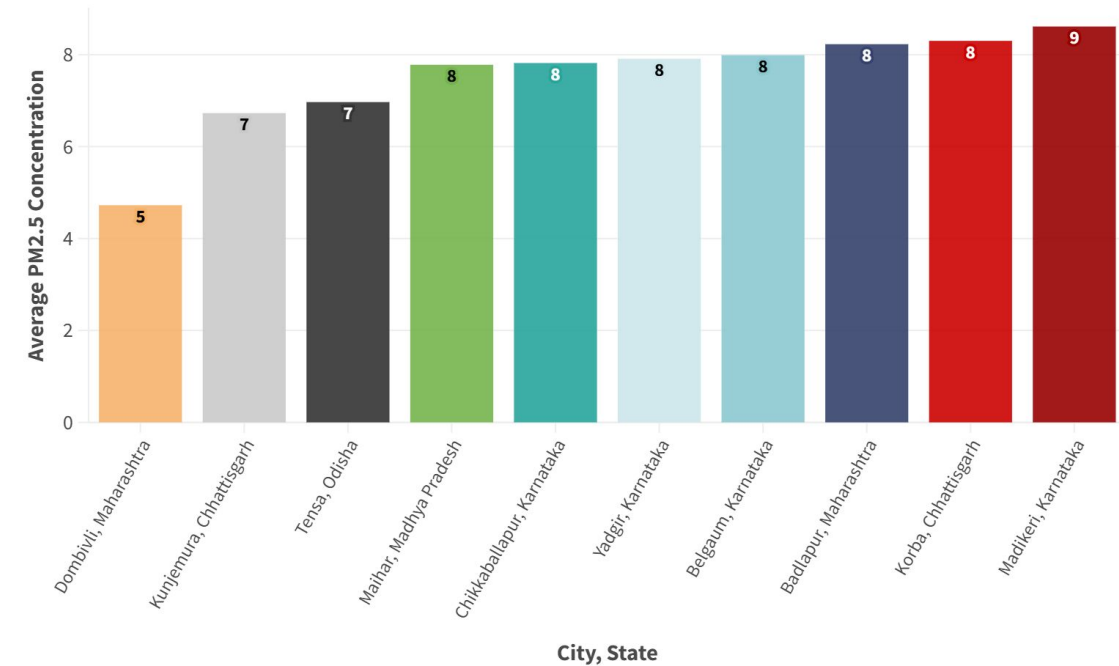


Top 10 cleanest cities in India by PM_{2.5} concentration – August 2026

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

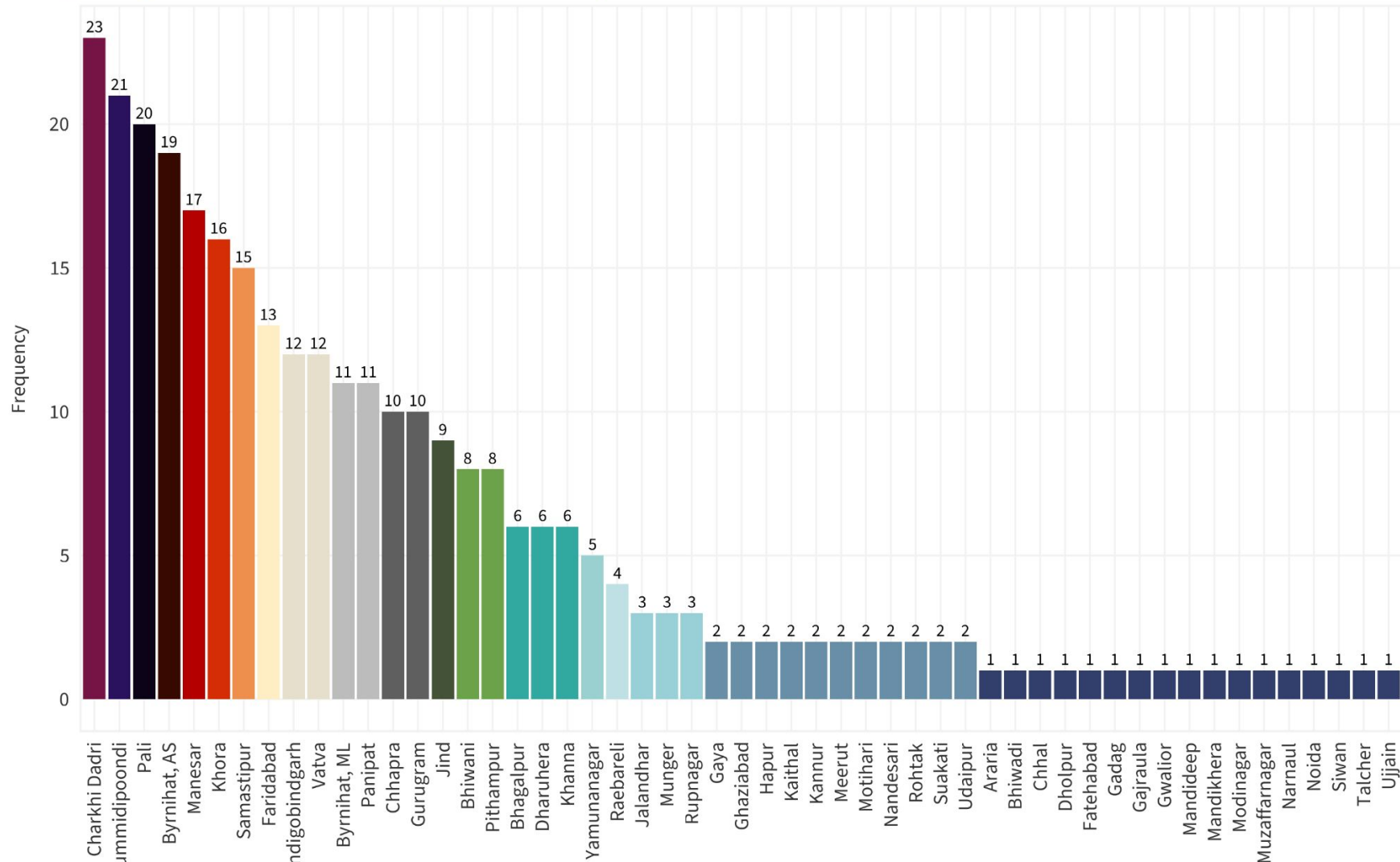
City	Good (0-30)	Satisfactory (31-60)	Moderate (61-90)	Poor (91-120)	Very poor (121-250)	Severe (>250)
Dombivli	31	0	0	0	0	0
Kunjemura	31	0	0	0	0	0
Tensa	30	0	0	0	0	0
Maihar	26	0	0	0	0	0
Chikkaballapur	31	0	0	0	0	0
Yadgir	31	0	0	0	0	0
Belgaum	29	0	0	0	0	0
Badlapur	31	0	0	0	0	0
Korba	31	0	0	0	0	0
Madikeri	31	0	0	0	0	0

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



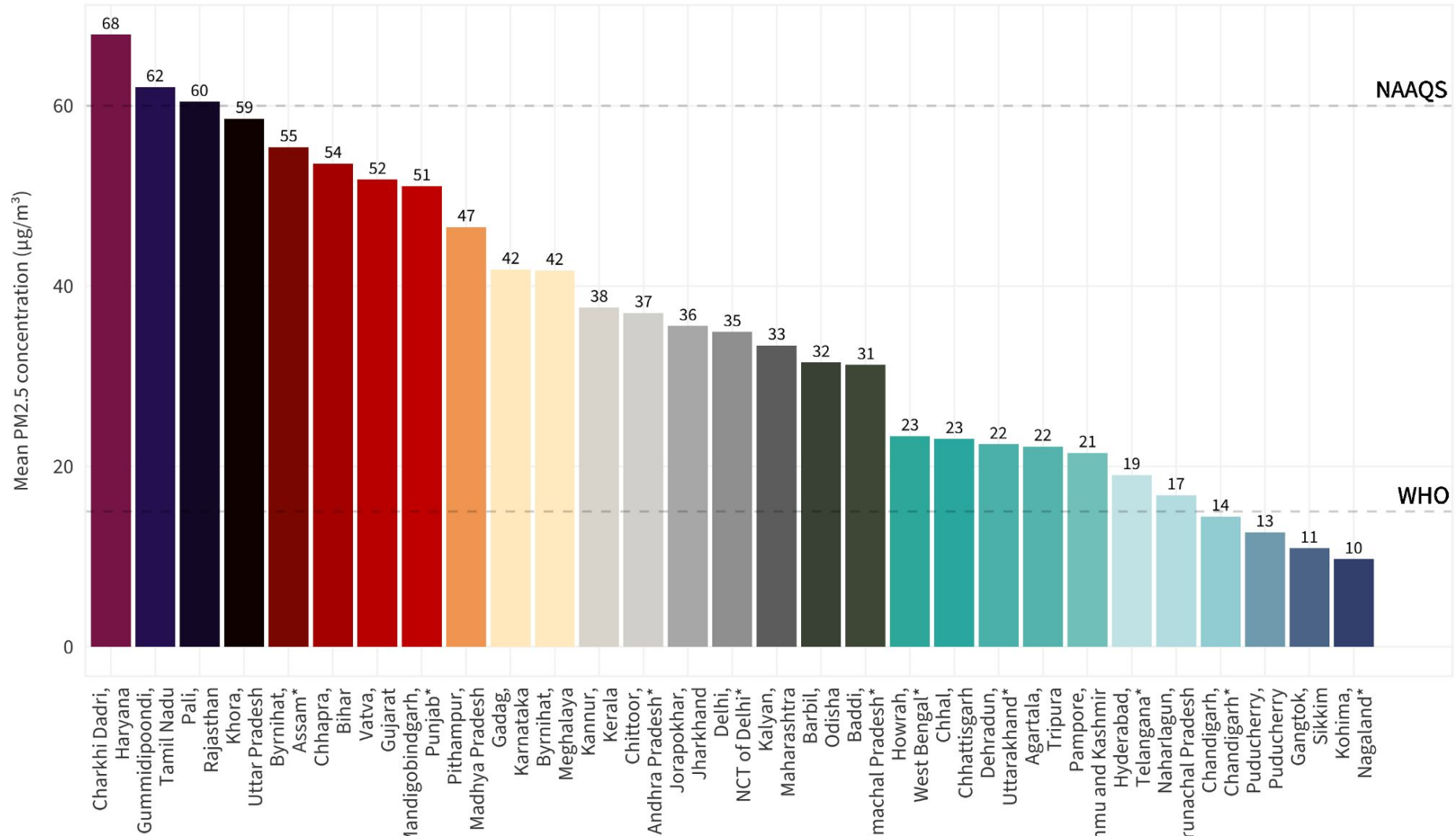
Source: CCR

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



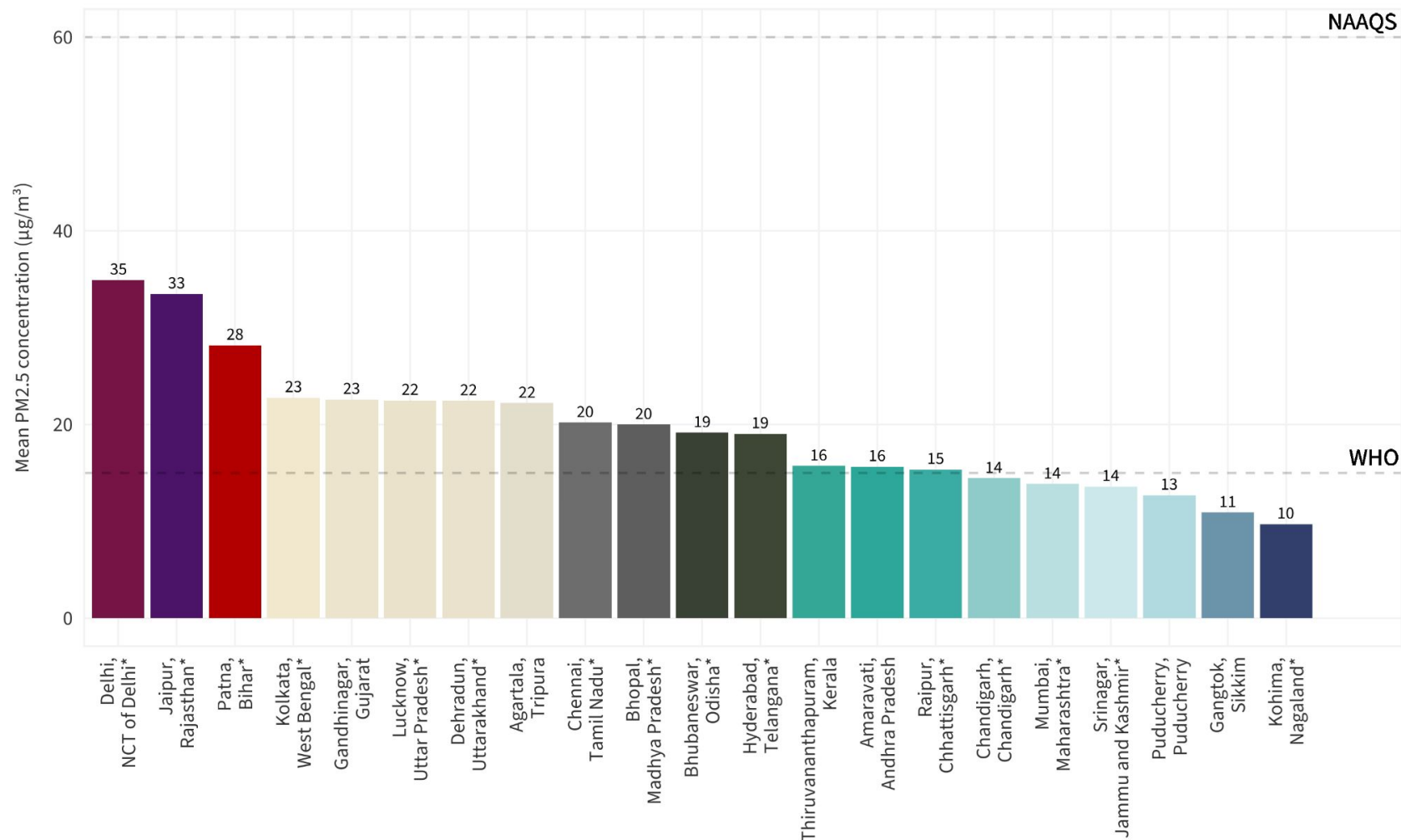
State-wise most polluted cities (PM_{2.5}, µg/m³) in India - August 2026

* indicates NCAP cities



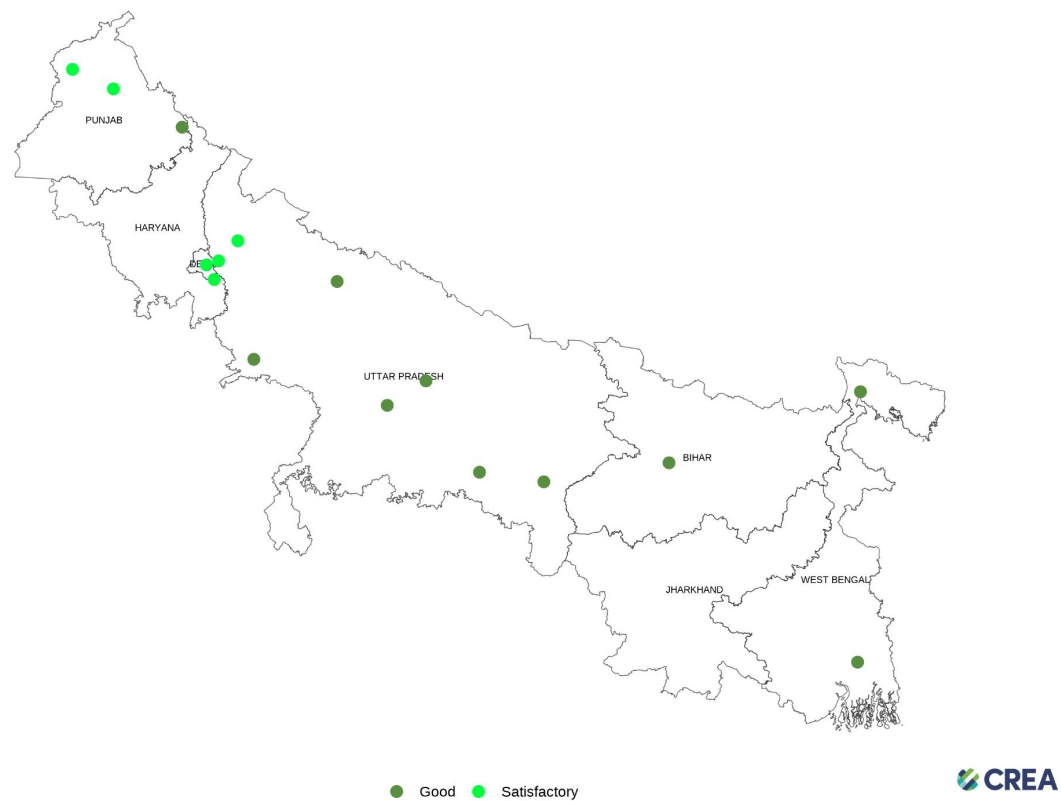
PM_{2.5} concentrations across state capital cities in India - August 2026

* indicates NCAP cities

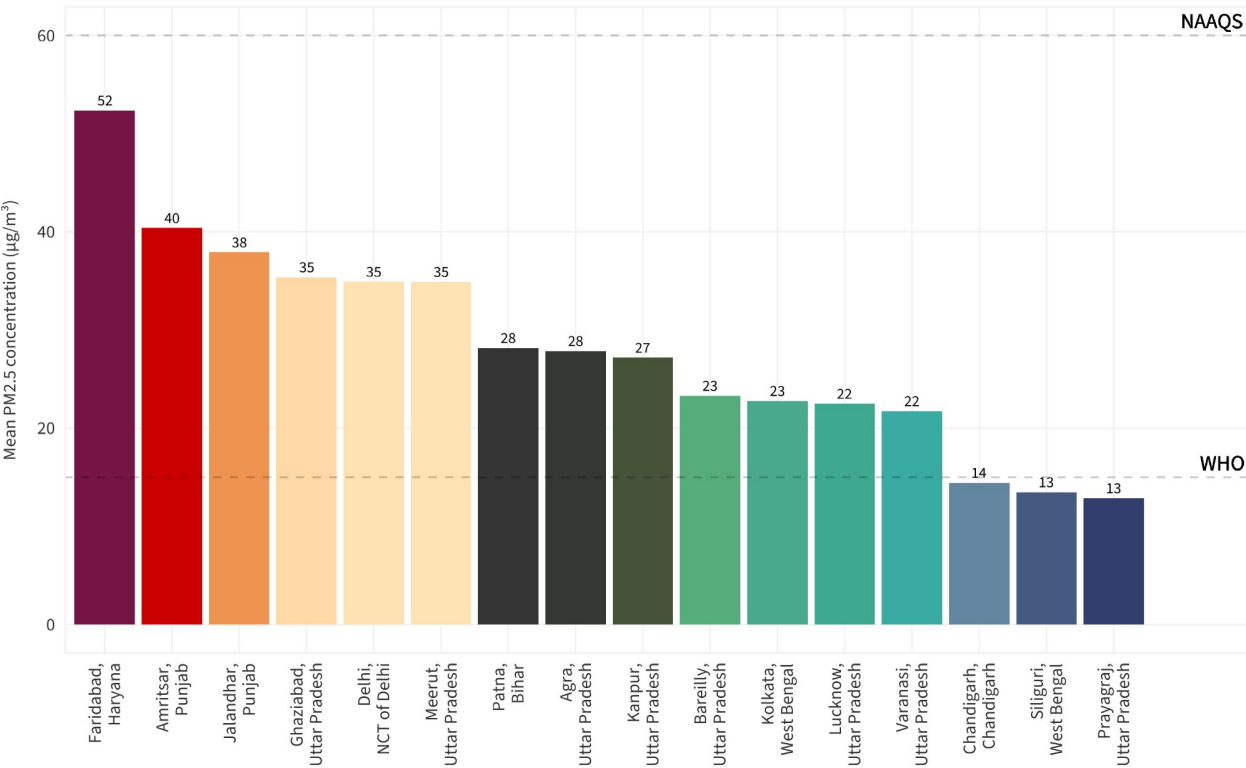


Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh); Dispur (Assam); Panaji (Goa); Shimla (Himachal Pradesh); Ranchi (Jharkhand); Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands); Daman (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu); Leh (Ladakh); and Kavaratti (Lakshadweep) don't have an operational CAAQMS.

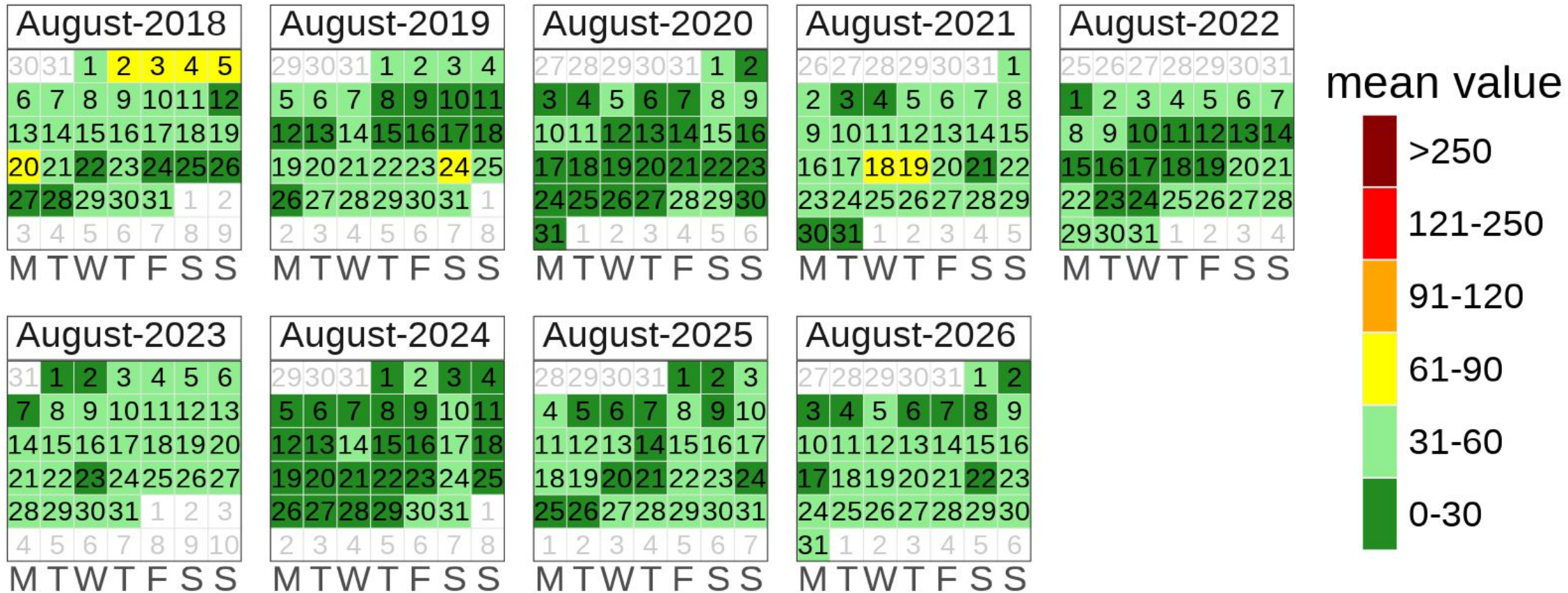
PM_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities with CAAQMS in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India – August 2026



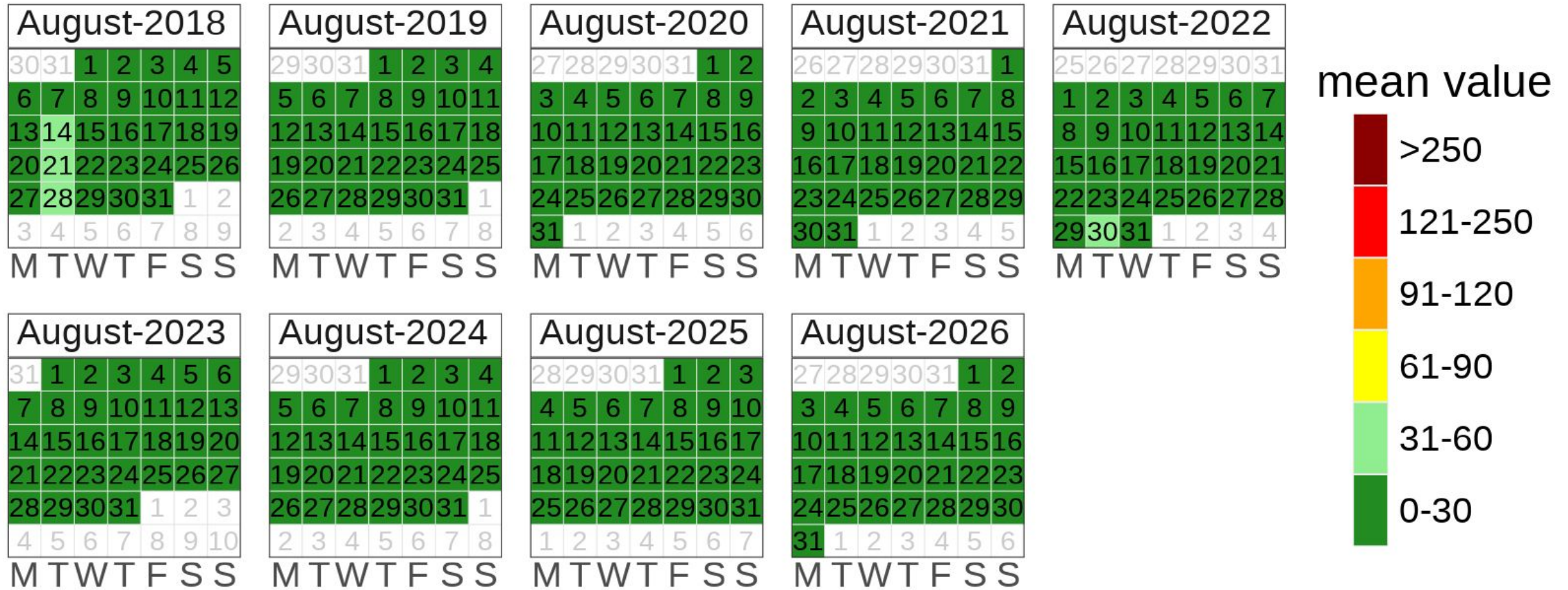
PM_{2.5} concentrations across million plus cities in Indo-Gangetic Plain in India (with CAAQMS) - August 2026



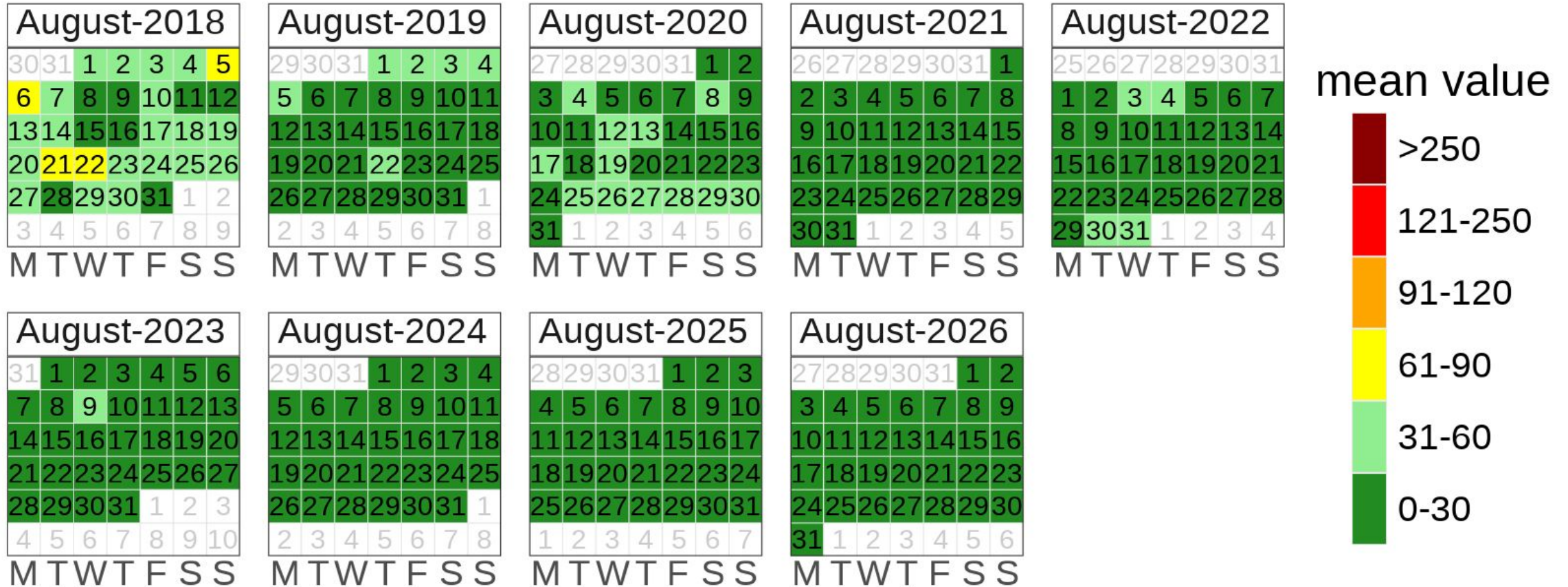
Ambient air quality status in Delhi – August 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



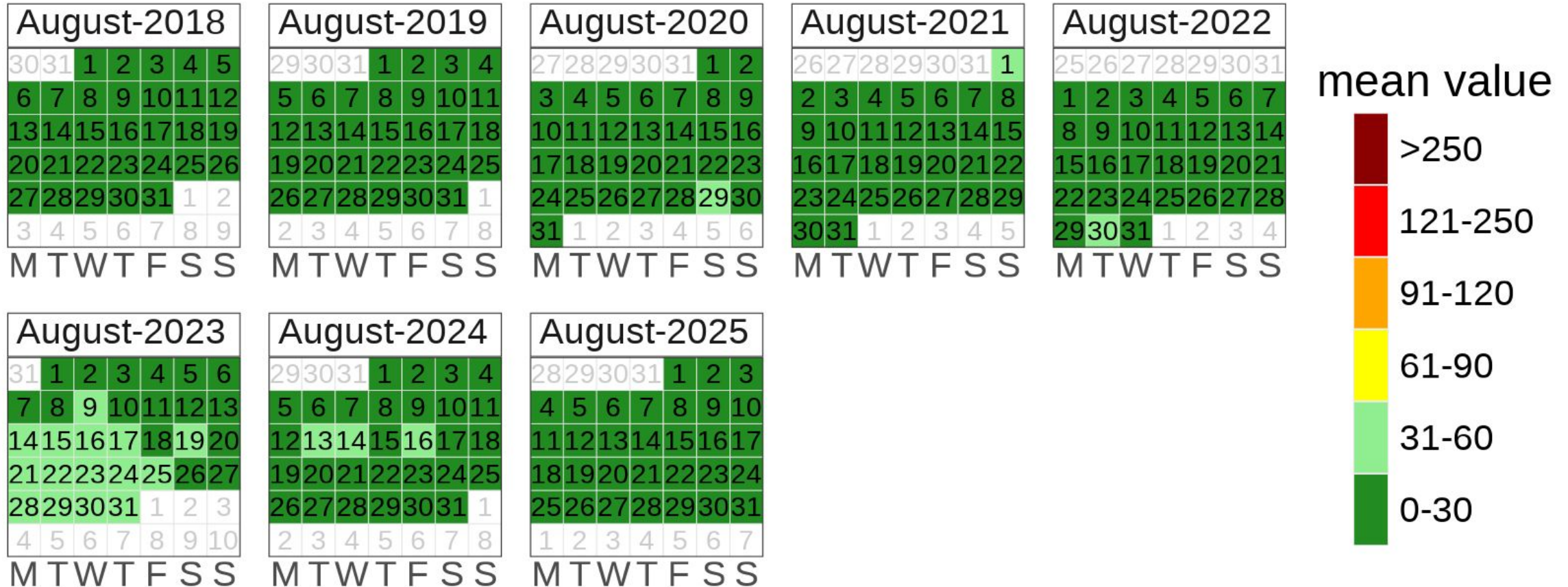
Ambient air quality status in Mumbai – August 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



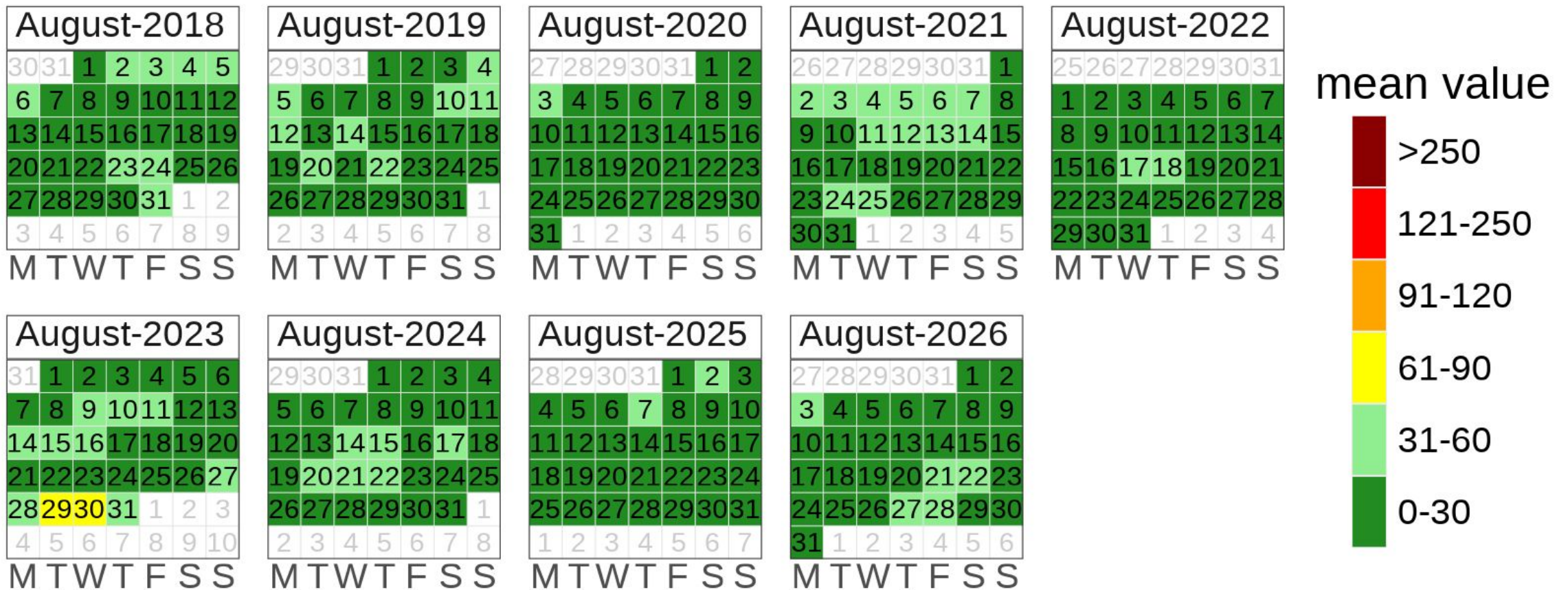
Ambient air quality status in Chennai – August 2026 (PM_{2.5} concentration, µg/m³)



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



Ambient air quality status in Kolkata – August 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](#)