

# Nov air quality: PM2.5 count dipped by 11.3% from last year's but still in 'poor' category

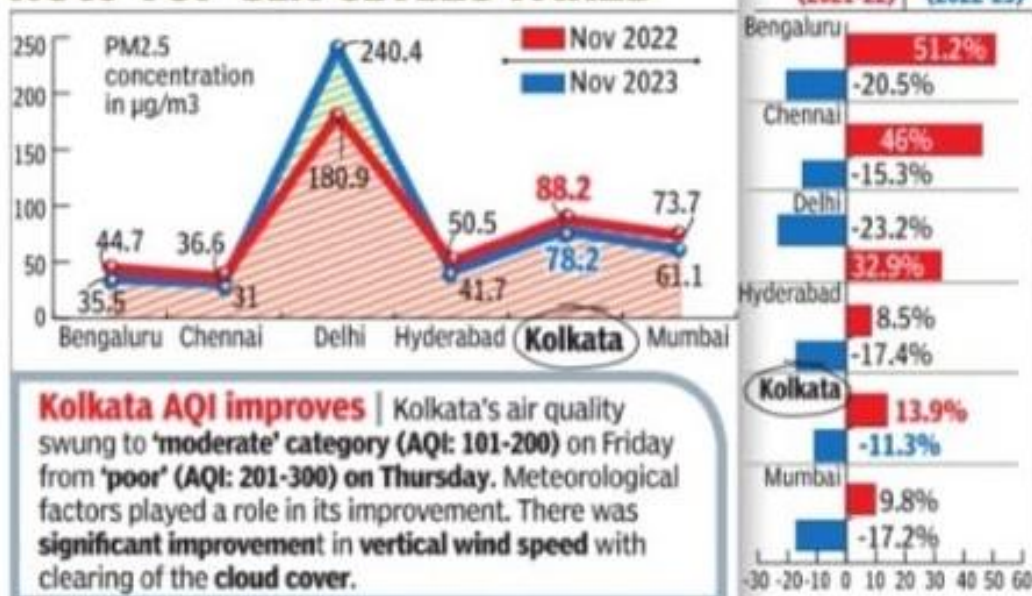
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**Kolkata:** This November, Kolkata experienced cleaner air compared to last November, with an 11.3% dip in PM2.5 count in the air. The Respirer Report, which has analysed the November pollution data of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of 11 Indian big cities, found the total PM2.5 count of the city's ambient air has dipped by 9.9% over the last five years.

According to the Respirer Report by Respirer Living Sciences, Kolkata had 78.2µg/m<sup>3</sup> of PM2.5 count this November. Significantly, finer particulate matter of the size of 2.5 microns is considered to be the most dangerous for human health as they can travel to lung and blood vessels unhindered, and chemical particles often piggyback on them to play havoc with our health.

However, despite the dip, Kolkata, along with Mumbai, experienced overall 'poor' air quality this November. It was 'satisfactory' in south Indian

## HOW TOP SIX CITIES FARED



cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad. Air in Delhi and Patna, situated in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, was 'very poor'.

The study showed that since 2019, the PM2.5 count in Kolkata kept dipping, except in November 2022 when

there was a 13.9% rise in PM2.5 concentration. Significantly, most of the Indian big cities experienced a dip in PM2.5 concentration in 2023. Bengaluru experienced the highest dip of 20.5%, followed by Mumbai at 17.2%. However, Delhi, Gandhinagar, Bhopal

and Lucknow experienced a spike. Delhi experienced the highest PM2.5 spike — 32.9% — this November, followed by Gandhinagar (15%). The study found that Delhi, Gandhinagar, Chandigarh and Bhopal were the most polluted in November in the last five years (2019-23).

Chennai experienced the highest improvement in PM2.5 levels. Since 2019, November PM2.5 concentration dipped by 51.3%. Mumbai November was second best since 2019. Apart from six megacities (Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai), five other big cities — Patna, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Gandhinagar were included in the study.

"Air pollution is largely governed by meteorological factors. However, we now have area-specific mitigation measures, including sprinkling, extinguishing landfill site fires, shifting from conventional energy to LPG as the source of energy and cutting down on demolition and construction waste," said West Bengal Pollution Control Board chairman Kalyan Rudra.