



News

Pollution to blame for heavy rain, cloud bursts in Indo-Gangetic plains: Study

Aerosols and particulate matter in polluted air are inducing the formation of larger clouds that trigger bursts of heavy rain in the Indo-Gangetic plains, according to the findings of a study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)- Kanpur and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the US. For the study, the researchers simulated a storm over Kanpur city and found that the urban core and areas downwind from the city received more rainfall compared to upwind areas. Using a weather research and forecasting model, they found similar patterns in Delhi, Agra, the Durgapur-Asansol region, and Kolkata, all located in the Indo-Gangetic plain where particulate matter pollution is at.....[Read more...](#)

Date: March 07, 2018

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/>

Four Years After Declaring War on Pollution, China Is Winning

The speed of the anti-pollution drive has raised important questions about its human costs. But if China sustains these reductions, recent research by my colleagues and me indicates that residents will see significant improvements to their health, extending their life spans by months or years. How did China get here? In the months before the premier's speech, the country released a national air quality action plan that required all urban areas to reduce concentrations of fine particulate matter pollution by at least 10 percent, more in some cities.

The Beijing area was required to reduce pollution by 25 percent, and the city set aside an astounding \$120 billion for that purpose. To reach these targets, China prohibited new coal-fired power plants in the country's most polluted regions, including the Beijing area. Existing plants were told to reduce their emissions. If they didn't, the coal was replaced with natural gas. Large cities, including Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, restricted the number of cars on the road. The country also reduced its iron- and steel-making capacity and shut down coal mines.....[Read more...](#)

Date: March 12, 2018

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/>

Clean air programme 'good' start, but needs transparency of info: Greenpeace

The government's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to tackle air pollution is a "good" start, but it needs public participation from the planning level and transparency in terms of information, a green body said on Monday. Greenpeace India, which accessed the NCAP's concept document through an RTI, said that there is an "ambiguity" on the planning given the lack of information in the public domain. "It is good to see the government's growing concentration towards air pollution.

However there is an ambiguity on the planning given the lack of information on public domain regarding NCAP. "There has to be a transparency of information in the public domain and inclusive public participation starting from planning level," Sunil Dahiya, senior campaigner, Greenpeace India, said. He pointed out that the concept note on the NCAP is a "big step" in the right.....[Read more...](#)

Date: March 12, 2018

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

Air Pollution Linked to Fetal Brain Development Problems

A new study published this month in the journal Biological Psychiatry suggested that abnormalities observed in the brains of school-aged children in the Netherlands were linked to exposure to fine particulates in the air their mothers were breathing during pregnancy. The abnormalities resulted in behavioral issues, impulse control and risk factors for future problems, such as addiction.

"Although specific individual clinical implications of these findings cannot be quantified, based on other studies, the observed cognitive delays at early ages could have significant long-term consequences such as increased risk of mental health disorders and low academic achievement, in particular due to the ubiquity of the exposure," Dr. Monica Guxens of the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, the study's lead author, said in a statement released with the study. Troublingly, the researchers discovered that the abnormalities occurred even when pregnant mothers were living in places where the air pollution levels were within the acceptable limits set by the European Union.[Read more...](#)

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