

# Air Pollution , a global crisis, what are other cities doing to tackle pollution

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A photograph of the India Gate in Delhi, India, completely obscured by a thick, grey haze of air pollution. The scene is very dim and lacks detail due to the smog.

Delhi

A photograph of a modern city skyline in Beijing, China, with several skyscrapers. The entire scene is shrouded in a dense, grey smog, making the buildings appear as dark silhouettes against a hazy background.

Beijing

A photograph of the Tower Bridge in London, England, viewed from the water. The bridge is heavily obscured by a thick, grey smog, with only its general shape visible against a hazy sky.

London

A photograph of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, under a clear, bright blue sky. The tower is in sharp focus, and the scene is vibrant and clear.

Paris



# London's Great Smog, it's been there before, how did they deal with it?

1952, London's Great Smog

1956, Clean Air Act with significant budgets

Immediate action - Shutdown power plants, shifter to cleaner fuels, taxed polluting industries heavily, increased public transport - Underground, Buses, cycling lanes

2014-2015 - The debate is back, they have failed to control cars, which lead to a spike in the PM levels.

Advisories and car-free days



# The Delhi Story -

Common Wealth Games 2010

US Embassy Data

2013, the WHO data set listed Delhi as the world's most polluted followed by an editorial in NYT that created a ripple effect.

An explosion in the number of source apportionment studies, associated health impacts.

Judicial Activism which forced the Delhi Govt to act.

Odd-even, banning old diesel vehicles, Schools getting shut, Ban on firecrackers both at weddings and otherwise. Numerous public campaigns, by NDTV - #KillerAir and #CleanAirMyRight

GRAP - Graded Response Action Plan, action and progress cannot be episodic.

# Beijing -

Beijing Olympics 2008 , US Embassy Data in contradiction to the Chinese govt data that created a huge uproar.

Key sources are transport , cement plants and coal-fired power plants

Beijing remained the world's most polluted city with PM2.5 levels spiking at more than 150ug/m<sup>3</sup> for four years in a row post which Delhi took the lead!

Peking university data contradicting the Govt figures followed by fierce public campaigns by environmental groups brought out the health impacts and severity of the crisis.

Govt was forced to act:

Four -Level/Four-Tier Alarm System (cars off the roads, schools shut)

NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PLAN - 5 year targets



A red alert is the highest of a four-level alert system instituted two years. The other colours are blue, yellow, and orange.

Red means hazardous air pollution for three consecutive days. Air quality levels higher than 300 is considered hazardous.

It triggers advisories to residents to avoid outdoor activity and for schools to stop classes.

It also triggers restrictions on vehicle use, factories and construction work.

Bangalore and Delhi has most of it's days under ORANGE and RED as per Beijing's standards

### In India though ....

Good	Minimal impact
Satisfactory	Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people
Moderate	Breathing discomfort to the people with lungs, asthma and heart diseases
Poor	Breathing discomfort to most people on prolonged exposure
Very Poor	Respiratory illness on prolonged exposure
Severe	Affects healthy people and seriously impacts those with existing diseases

**Our AQI , beyond Delhi's action in last winter has never transformed into action, it's merely a colour chart on the CPCB website**

Around 600,000 children under age 5 die every year from diseases caused from outdoor air pollution. (2016 UNICEF)

Two Indians die every minute due to air pollution Lancet, 2017

## Gearing up campaigns



Be a part of the Change

 #HawaBadlo  
#ChangeTheAir

 /HawaBadlo [www.changetheair.org](http://www.changetheair.org)  /HawaBadlo

Hawa Badlo campaign details

# #KillerAir

# #DeathbyBreath

# CleanAirMyRight