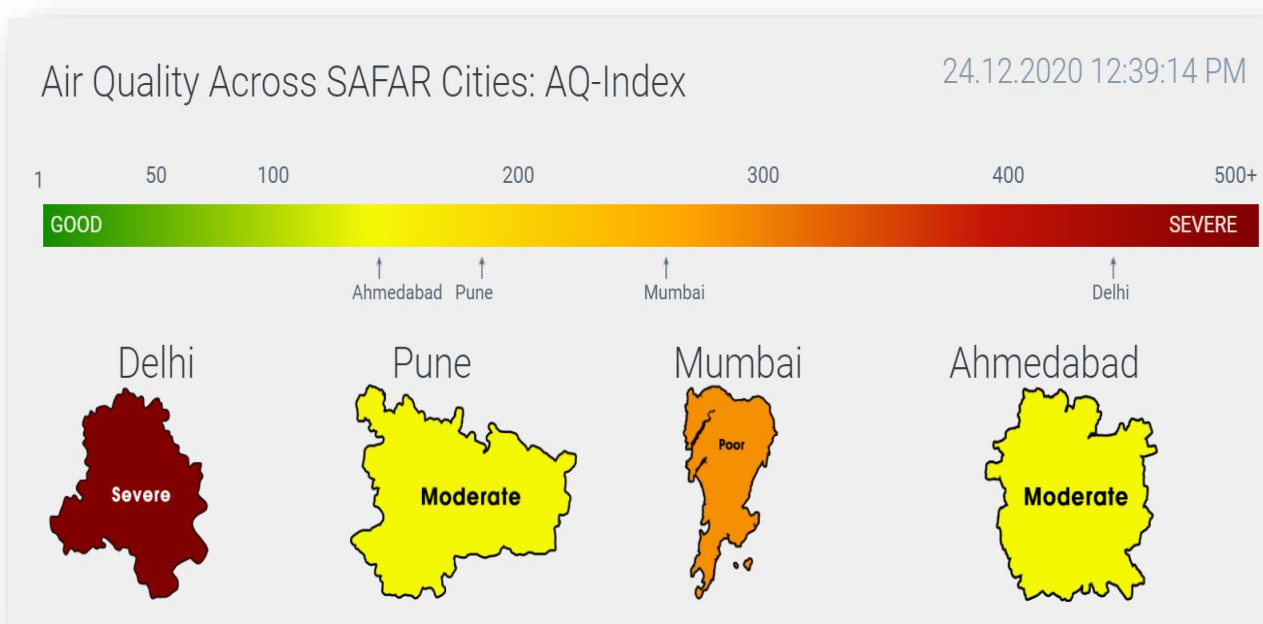


Air quality continuing to be hazardous in the national capital

New Delhi, 24 December 2020 (Vigyan Samachar)

Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) is issuing an early air quality forecast for the National Capital Territory region of Delhi. Deterioration of the Air Quality Index (AQI) is still progressing with thick layers of smog blanketing various parts of the NCT region. AQI is remaining in 'severe category' for several days due to calm surface with high moisture creating a hazardous environment.



As per System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), the Air Quality Index of Delhi is forecasted to improve only to the higher end of the Very Poor category by 25th December 2020 due to building up of *surface-level winds* and slight *increase in day time temperature*. AQI is forecasted to improve to the middle-end of Very Poor on 26th and 27nd December 2020.

Tremendous accumulation of particulate matter PM_{2.5} is observed due to *low ventilation* resulting from *calm wind-cold conditions* which is halting the dispersion of these

locally contributed harmful pollutants. However, better ventilation condition is forecasted by IMD for the next two days.

Particulate matter 2.5 (expressed as **PM_{2.5}**) refers to tiny particles in air which are two and one half microns or even lesser in width. One micron is equal to one millionth of a meter. A human hair is about 90 microns in diameter. There are about 25,000 microns in an inch. The widths of the larger particles in the PM_{2.5} size range would be about thirty times smaller than that of a human hair. The smaller particles are so small that several thousand of them could fit on the period at the end of this sentence.

The AQI measured at some of the areas of NCT today morning are:

Anand Vihar	462
Okhla Phase-2	461
Rohini	454
Dwarka Sector-8	447
ITO	437
IGI Airport	401

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), AQI between **401 and 500** considered “**severe**” and between **301 and 400** belongs to the “**very poor**” category.

As per AQ-EWS models, AQI of Pune and Ahmedabad Mumbai are in the Moderate category. Mumbai AQI in the poor category. Pune and Ahmedabad AQI are likely to stay in the moderate category for the next three days. Mumbai AQI forecasted to remain in the Poor category for the next three days.

VS/MoES/MFA/24.12.2020