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AFTER 89 CUTS, CENSOR BOARD NOW WANTS 'UDTA PUNJAB' TO DROP 'PUNJAB' FROM TITLE 17



HILLARY ON CUSP OF DEM NOMINATION, NEEDS JUST 26 DELEGATES NOW 22

Life expectancy drops 6 yrs in Delhi due to pollution: Study

Most Premature Deaths Due To PM 2.5 In UP

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Pune: Delhi might be paying the steepest price for its air pollution with life expectancy dropping by 6.4 years while Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are likely to account for the highest number of premature deaths in India, a study by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology has revealed.

Conducted by IITM scientists in collaboration with the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Colorado, the study is likely to

CHOKING TRUTH



further ignite concern over the need to improve air quality in the capital and urgently map its sources of pollution and their contribution to making Delhi an unhealthy city.

The study is based on data



compiled in the 2011 census to arrive at the figures of "premature mortality" due to exposure to particulate matter across the country.

► 15% deaths in UP, P 17

Consumers will pay for cleaner air

Consumers will have to shell out more for power, fuel and cars in a few years as these industries begin to pass on the burden of technology upgrades for meeting stringent green and emission norms, reports Sanjay Dutta. P 19

Plan to turn capital into solar city

The Delhi government has prepared a roadmap for making the national capital an environment-friendly solar city. The newly approved solar policy outlines a combination of regulations, mandates, incentives and tax breaks. P 4

In 2011, 15% of deaths linked to pollution were in UP

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Life expectancy in Maharashtra dropped by 3.3 years due to exposure to pollution, according to a study. The report, titled 'Premature Mortalities due to PM2.5 (finer particulate matter) and Ozone Exposure in India', states that Maharashtra recorded 10% of the country's deaths due to pollution with UP topping at around 15%.

IITM scientist Sachin Ghude, who was involved in the study, said, "Although these results are in line with other global estimates, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Burden of Diseases (GBD), there's no physical way to tell who has actually been killed by air pollution."

Ghude added, "The methods used in this study rely on statistical algorithms to construct estimates about a population's response to pollution exposure using previous concrete observations on pollution and public health."

"The problem is that most of these observational studies have taken place in regions with comparatively low pollution levels, such as Europe or the US, and we don't have any epidemiological studies in India that look at the long-term effects of air pollution on mortality," Ghude added.

West Bengal (9%) and Bihar (8%) follow Maharashtra. Other states with high premature mortalities due to PM2.5 are Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan, which collectively account for 32% of the country-wide premature mortalities.

The research also calculates mortalities due to exposure to harmful ozone (O3) pollution, where Maharashtra stands fourth with 7% of the country's deaths after UP (18%), Bihar (11%) and West Bengal (9.5%). The report cites PM2.5, which experts say is mostly emitted by vehicles, as the cause for chronic pulmonary diseases.