

# 'PM2.5 low, PM10 high on dense fog days'



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**NEW DELHI:** Between 2012 and 2015, while the level of PM2.5 has shown a decreasing trend during dense fog days, concentration of PM10 has increased.

Particulate Matter 10 is a pollutant found in windblown dust, smog, pollens, construction activities, which cause respiratory problems and aggravate asthma. Particulate Matter 2.5 is finer and found in vehicular emissions, high temperature combustion, heavy metals. PM2.5 has long-term health effects such as lung diseases and even cancer.

The trend was highlighted after a 62-day study was conducted by System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research (SAFAR), an agency that gives data on air quality in India.

"Fog occurrence are maximum during December and January, air quality data was evaluated for these respective months only (62 days) in 2014-2015," said Gufran

## TOXIC MIX

Pollutants in the air are dangerous for human health both in the short and long term. They can cause not just breathing issues but can also lead to cancer

<b>PM</b> Particulate matter	<b>SO<sub>2</sub></b> Sulphur dioxide	<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b> Carbon dioxide	<b>NO<sub>2</sub></b> Nitrogen dioxide	<b>CO</b> Carbon monoxide	<b>O<sub>3</sub></b> Ozone
<b>Brief:</b> Eye and nose irritation, asthma attacks, sore throat, cough <b>Prolonged:</b> Asthma, chronic bronchitis, lung damage, heart disease, cancers	<b>Brief:</b> Eye irritation, wheezing, chest tightness, shortness of breath, sore throat <b>Prolonged:</b> Asthma, chronic bronchitis, lung damage	<b>Brief:</b> Slowed reflexes, sleepiness, confusion <b>Prolonged:</b> Permanent damage to vital organs such as the heart and the brain	<b>Brief:</b> Raised risk of respiratory infections, cough, chest pain, difficulty in breathing <b>Prolonged:</b> Asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema	<b>Brief:</b> Headache, nausea, dizziness, anxiety, lowered alertness <b>Prolonged:</b> Heart disease, heart attack, death in high concentration	<b>Brief:</b> Eye and throat irritation, cough, airway infections, breathing difficulty, lung congestion <b>Prolonged:</b> Bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, reduced lung function, lung-tissue scarring

Beig, project director, SAFAR, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. Beig was talking at a fog brainstorming meeting organised by India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Apart from the 62 days, SAFAR has also analysed the trends from 2012 to 2015 as well.

So categorising the fog days into dense, moderate and no

fog, the study shows that in the year 2012-2013 on 23% fog, the PM10 level was 283.73, while in 2014-2015 as dense fog rose to 44%, the PM10 concentration climbed to 323.2.

However in contrast, the level of PM2.5 has decreased, when on 23% dense fog, the PM2.5 in 2012-2013 was 189.09 in 2014-2015 the PM2.5 concentration came

down to 108.22.

"A decreasing trend from 2012-2015 of PM 2.5 is good news in terms of health. The local weather is playing a dominant role. Also on the other hand the particulate matter presence is playing an important role to determine the thickness and intensity of the fog," said Beig.

## Green body to hear car dealers' plea challenging diesel vehicle ban

**NEW DELHI:** The National Green Tribunal on Monday agreed to hear a plea seeking modification of its order which said that diesel-run vehicles will not be registered in Delhi in the wake of alarming pollution levels in the city.

"Let it come tomorrow," a bench headed by NGT chairperson justice Swatanter Kumar, which took the matter on mentioning, said.

Senior advocate Pinaki Mishra, appearing for Delhi-based car dealers, sought modification of the order on the ground that diesel cars which were manufactured in 2015 should be allowed to be sold as the existing stock would become obsolete by next year.

"Existing stock will become obsolete. Nobody will buy a car of last year's make," Mishra said. As an interim measure, the tribunal had ordered that diesel-run vehicles will not be registered in Delhi and there will be no renewal of registration of such vehicles which are more than