

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 68
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

Monitoring of air quality in Kolkata

68. SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- whether CPCB is actively monitoring AQI levels in Kolkata through Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, and the number and locations of such stations currently operational in the city;
- whether Government is aware that Kolkata frequently records poor to very poor AQI levels, especially during winter months and whether CPCB has conducted any source-apportionment or seasonal trend studies for the city; and
- the specific directions or advisories issued by CPCB to the West Bengal authorities to address major pollution sources such as vehicular emissions, construction dust, industrial clusters and waste burning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c): There are 07 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and 41 Manual monitoring stations in the city of Kolkata, West Bengal, and these stations are operated and maintained by West Bengal Pollution Control Board. The locations of the stations are given in **Annexure – I**.

The average Air Quality Index (AQI) in Kolkata, during 2023, 2024 and 2025, is as given below:

Year	Average AQI											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2023	225	129	96	95	65	58	37	67	45	102	165	176
2024	225	148	92	98	59	53	43	50	55	76	159	159
2025	172	117	94	63	56	53	48	53	56	95	175	202

Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Source Apportionment (SA) studies, which aid in identification of major sources of air pollution and assessment of their relative contributions, has been conducted for Kolkata in the year 2025.

Based on the findings of the source apportionment study for Kolkata city, dust emissions was estimated as the dominant source of atmospheric PM10 concentrations (43%) throughout the city followed by cooking (18%) and vehicular emissions (13%). For PM2.5 concentrations, it was estimated that the cooking (29%) is the major source of air pollution followed by industrial (21%) and vehicular (20%) emissions annually.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) directed all State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) including West Bengal Pollution Control Board (WSPCB) to prepare and implement the Action Plan to restore and improve the environmental quality in all concerned Critically Polluted Areas & Severely Polluted Areas (CPAs & SPAs).

Accordingly, all concerned SPCBs/PCCs including WSPCB has prepared an Action Plan for the same and submitted to CPCB during 2018. CPCB developed “CEPI Action Plan Review portal” to review the implementation of action plan by concerned SPCBs/PCCs.

CPCB has issued directions under various statutory provisions. These include directions under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for adherence to revised OCEMS protocols on calibration and alerts, and for display of notice boards by brick kilns in line with Hon’ble NGT orders; directions under Section 18(1)(b) of the Air Act, 1981 for implementation of the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; and directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for enforcement of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 with specific focus on bio-mining of legacy waste.

Further, CPCB has issued targeted directions and advisories to tackle major urban pollution sources, focusing on vehicular emissions, construction dust, industrial clusters, and waste burning to all State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), Pollution Control Committees (PCCs), and local authorities including Kolkata.

Locations of continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations of Kolkata operated by West Bengal Pollution Control Board

State	City	CAAQMS Stations Location
West Bengal	Kolkata	Ballygunge, Kolkata
		Bidhannagar, Kolkata
		Fort William, Kolkata
		Jadavpur, Kolkata
		Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
		Rabindra Sarobar, Kolkata
		Victoria, Kolkata