



Delhi pollution 'like smoking 50 cigarettes a day'

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Air quality has dropped to its worst recorded level this year in New Delhi and nearby cities, with a thick haze hanging over the Indian capital.

1-1. Blanketed in a thick haze, _____

1-2. as air quality dropped _____

2-1. In most areas of the city and surrounding areas, _____

2-2. which, according to experts, _____

3-1. Anything above 400 poses a risk _____

3-2. and can also affect _____

(SOUNDBITE) (Hindi) UNIDENTIFIED DELHI RESIDENT, SAYING:

"Apart from breathing issues, pollution is also pressurizing us psychologically even that what is happening. It's not winters, so it's definitely not fog. We are walking around with masks."

4-1. The haze _____

4-2. with as many as 32 planes _____

5-1. The government's environment monitoring agency warned _____

5-2. as humidity resulting from light overnight rains _____

[Vocabulary]

☐ **blanket:** to cover something with a layer of something, for example snow

• A thick and black fog blanketed the area.

• *The room was entirely blanketed in dust.*

☐ **haze:** water, smoke, or dust in the air that makes it difficult to see clearly

• *There was an early-morning haze across the valley.*

☐ **thick haze:** smog: smoke that's caused by polluting substances in the air. Generally, the more cars there are in a city, the more likely there is to be smog.

☐ **public health emergency:** "an emergency need for health care [medical] services to respond to a disaster, significant outbreak of an infectious disease, bioterrorist attack or other significant or catastrophic event."

- **air quality**: The degree to which the air in a particular place is pollution-free.
 - *Air quality in offices without air-conditioning can be poor.*
- **air quality index**: **AQI** is used by government agencies to communicate to the public how polluted the air currently is or how polluted it is forecast to become.
- **breach**: to get through something such as a wall or fence
 - *The high waters had breached the town's flood defenses.*
- **akin**: similar to something
 - *The political situation here is more akin to dictatorship than democracy.*
 - Forcing them to listen to this terrible music is akin to torture.
- **pose**: to create a difficult or dangerous situation
 - *We are being told that the accident poses no threat to the environment.*
 - *Shortages of vaccines for kids are posing health risks.*
- **respiratory**: relating to the process of breathing air in and out
 - *The patient died of respiratory failure.*
- **respiratory illness**: a disease affecting the respiratory system
 - *From the BBC: "In many areas of Delhi air quality deteriorated into the 'hazardous' category, with the potential to cause **respiratory illnesses**."*
- **affect**: to change or influence something. If something affects something else, it has an effect on it; to cause physical damage to something
 - *Did the newspapers really affect the outcome of the election?*
 - *The area has been badly affected by pollution.*
- **apart from**: besides; except for
 - *Apart from magazines, Tom reads very little.*
 - *Apart from the saggy roof, the cottage is in pretty good shape.*
- **pollution**: the process of damaging the air, water, or land with chemicals or other substances
 - *the pollution of local rivers*
- **pressurize**: = pressure; to try to make someone do something by forcing, threatening, or persuading them in a determined way
 - *Don't be pressurized into making any rash decisions.*
 - *Officials had pressurized her to lie about the affair.*
- **havoc**: a situation in which there is a lot of damage or destruction, or in which something cannot continue in its normal way because of problems
 - *Winter storms continued to cause havoc for drivers.*
- **divert**: to make something move or travel in a different direction
 - *Police are trying to divert traffic away from the trouble spot.*
 - *It was impossible to divert his attention from his work.*
- **India Gandhi International Airport**:
- **due to**: As a result of something
 - *He says that his success is due to his sense of humor.*
 - *Due to the impending thunderstorms, the baseball game has been canceled.*
- **low visibility**: Visibility of less than 100 meters (330 ft) is usually reported as zero.

□ **relief**: a temporary improvement in or rest from a situation that is difficult or boring, or something that provides this

- *The storms continued all night, and the next morning brought no relief.*
- *Last night's unexpected win will bring much-needed relief to the team's coach.*

□ **humidity**: the amount of water in the air

□ **overnight**: during the night, or from one evening until the next morning

- *They stayed overnight at the hotel.*
- *Soak the beans overnight in cold water.*

□ **exacerbate**: to make a problem worse; to worsen

- *The new law only exacerbates the problem.*
- *Illegal immigrants who do not have a basic understanding of the English language exacerbate the problem further.*

[参照辞書: Merriam-Webster, Oxford English Dictionary, America Heritage of the English language, Collins English Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, the Free Dictionary, Wikipedia]