

Pollution in India

(axe « Sauver la planète, penser les futurs possibles »)

Currently 550 million Indians or 40% of the population are exposed to the most extreme levels of pollution of the world. In India half of the pollution is due to industries. The smog which contains fine particles comes each year at the same time in the whole region of Delhi. It is so dense that it causes lots of car accidents. India has a population of more than 1 billion people, which means multiple millions of cars and motorcycles polluting the air everyday plus the smoke of the coal-powered plants. We can see people in the streets wearing masks made with old cloth so they don't breathe all the pollution in the air because breathing the air in New Delhi without a mask is like smoking 50 cigarettes per day.

Air pollution in India is a serious health issue. Out of the 30 most polluted cities in the world, 21 were in India in 2022. Air pollution in India is estimated to kill about 2 million people every year, 2.2 million children in Delhi have irreversible lung



damage due to poor air quality. In addition, research shows that pollution can lower children's immune system and increase the risks of cancer, epilepsy, diabetes and in average the life span of the population of cities in India is reduced by 9 years.



Pollution in India was once a city problem but is now expanding into rural areas and into natural reserves. Multiple species like tigers, foxes, leopards and even birds have been seen eating plastic that has been

thrown on the ground. The garbage collection in Indian cities is often inefficient and the rate of collection is low. It's even worse in rural areas as the plastic waste is burnt or dumped in uncontrolled landfills where animals eat. In reality the biggest infrastructure of waste management in India is the Gange river. A lot of people are dumping all their garbage on the side of the river knowing that everything will be taken away by the water.

The government has started the construction of incinerators which transform garbage into energy. They also announced that the production and the use of single plastic items like straws, cutlery and plastic bags is going to be forbidden. Despite these projects the NGO The Pew Charitable Trusts has announced that this isn't enough and that the quantity of plastic in the ocean will triple before 2040 if no big changes are made worldwide.

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