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For the 1st Week of

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Note:

The YouTube links for all the topics are embedded in the name of the Topic itself

1. Geography

1.1. Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

- "Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems" are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- Located in specific sites around the world, they sustainably provide multiple goods and services, food and livelihood security for millions of small-scale farmers. These traditional agricultural systems represent models of sustainable agricultural production.
- Unfortunately, these agricultural systems are threatened by many factors including climate change and increased competition for natural resources. They are also dealing with migration due to low economic viability, which has resulted in traditional farming practices being abandoned and endemic species and breeds being lost.
- These ancestral agricultural systems constitute the foundation for contemporary and future agricultural innovations and technologies. Their cultural, ecological and agricultural diversity is still evident in many parts of the world, maintained as unique systems of agriculture.
- In order to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems, food and agriculture organisation (specialised agency of the united nations) started an initiative for the identification and the dynamic conservation of globally important agricultural heritage systems (giahs) in 2002.
- The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations leads the programme globally important agricultural heritage systems, which helps identify ways to mitigate threats faced by these systems and their people and enhance the benefits derived from these dynamic systems.
- The programme has to date designated over 60 sites around the world.
- The overall goal of the Giahs programme is to identify and safeguard globally important agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalysing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived through their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

Three Recognised GIAHS Sites in India

- Kuttanad below sea level farming system of Kerala.
- Koraput traditional agriculture of Odisha.
- Pampore saffron heritage of Kashmir.

Previous Year UPSC Question

1. To provide modern technology, training in modern farming methods and financial support to local communities of identified GIAHS so as to greatly enhance their agricultural productivity.
2. To identify and safeguard eco-friendly traditional farm practices and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems of the local communities.
3. To provide Geographical Indication status to all the varieties of agricultural produce in such identified GIAHS.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 3
- B. 2 only
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 1, 2 and 3

1.2. World Food Price Index: FAO

- The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.
- The FFPI is a Laspeyres price index, which is calculated as the trade-weighted average of the prices of food commodities spanning the key agricultural markets for cereals, vegetable oils, sugar, meat and dairy products.
- The Laspeyres price index is used because it facilitates timely updates. [The Laspeyres price index is an index formula used in price statistics for measuring the price development of the basket of goods and services consumed in the base period.] - Prices are combined in the various sectors using trade weights calculated from average export values over a chosen three-year base period, when the trade weights appear most stable relative to their trend values.
- FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) was introduced in 1996.
- The base period 2014–16 was chosen as the new base as it was considered the most representative period for most markets in the past ten years.
- The index has become a critical and timely monthly indicator of the state of international food markets, gauging the change in food commodity prices over time in nominal and real terms.

Additional Info :

Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC

- The Codex Alimentarius Commission or CAC is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme.
- Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO and WHO which are interested in international food standards.
- The Commission meets in regular session once a year alternating between Geneva and Rome.
- The programme of work of the Commission is funded through the regular budgets of WHO and FAO with all work subject to approval of the two governing bodies of the parent organizations.
- The Commission works in the six UN official languages.

2. History

2.1. The Red Fort

- Emperor Shah Jahan commissioned construction of the Red Fort on 12 May 1638, when he decided to shift his capital from Agra to Delhi.
- Originally red and white, its design is credited to architect Ustad Ahmad Lahori, who also constructed the Taj Mahal.
- Unlike other Mughal forts, the Red Fort's boundary walls are asymmetrical to contain the older Salimgarh Fort.
- The fortress-palace was a focal point of the medieval city of Shahjahanabad, which is present-day Old Delhi.
- Shah Jahan's successor, Aurangzeb, added the Pearl Mosque (Moti Masjid) to the emperor's private quarters
- When Jahandar Shah took over the Red Fort in 1712, it had been without an emperor for 30 years. Within a year of beginning his rule, Shah was murdered and replaced by Farrukhsiyar. Muhammad Shah, known as 'Rangila' (the Colourful) for his interest in art, took over the Red Fort in 1719.
- In 1739, Persian emperor Nadir Shah easily defeated the Mughal army, plundering the Red Fort, including the Peacock Throne.
- The internal weakness of the Mughal Empire made the Mughals titular heads of Delhi, and a 1752 treaty made the Marathas protectors of the throne at Delhi.
- In 1760, the Marathas removed and melted the silver ceiling of the Diwan-i-Khas to raise funds for the defence of Delhi from the armies of Ahmed Shah Durrani.
- In 1761, after the Marathas lost the third battle of Panipat, Delhi was raided by Ahmed Shah Durrani.
- In 1783 the Sikh Misl Karor Singhia, led by Baghel Singh Dhaliwal, conquered Delhi and the Red Fort.
- Baghel Singh, Jassa Singh Ahluwalia and Jassa Singh Ramgarhia all allied with a 40,000 force and Plundered the area from Awadh to Jodhpur. They destroyed Mughal supremacy and made them pay Rakhi Tax.
- In 1788, a Maratha garrison occupied the Red fort and Delhi alongside providing protection to the Mughal Emperor.
- Mahadji Scindia signed a treaty with the Sikhs where they were warned not to enter Delhi or ask for the Rakhi tribute.
- The Marathas lost the Fort to the British East India Company following the Second Anglo-Maratha War in 1803.
- During the Second Anglo-Maratha War, forces of British East India Company defeated Maratha forces of Daulat Rao Scindia in the Battle of Delhi; this ended Maratha rule of the city and their control of the Red Fort.
- After the battle, the British took over the administration of Mughal territories and installed a Resident at the Red Fort.

- The last Mughal emperor to occupy the fort, Bahadur Shah II, became a symbol of the 1857 rebellion against the British in which the residents of Shahjahanbad participated.
- After the rebellion failed, Bahadur Shah II left the fort on 17 September and was apprehended by British forces. Bahadur Shah Zafar II returned to Red Fort as a British prisoner, was tried in 1858 and exiled to Rangoon.
- With the end of Mughal reign, the British sanctioned the systematic plunder of valuables from the fort's palaces. All furniture was removed or destroyed; the harem apartments, servants' quarters and gardens were destroyed, and a line of stone barracks built.
- While the defensive walls and towers were relatively unharmed, more than two-thirds of the inner structures were destroyed by the British. Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905, ordered repairs to the fort including reconstruction of the walls and the restoration of the gardens complete with a watering system.
- Most of the jewels and artwork of the Red Fort were looted and stolen during Nadir Shah's invasion of 1747 and again after the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the British.
- They were eventually sold to private collectors or the British Museum, British Library and the Victoria and Albert Museum. For example, the jade wine cup of Shah Jahan and the crown of Bahadur Shah II are all currently located in London.
- The INA trials, also known as the Red Fort Trials, refer to the courts-martial of a number of officers of the Indian National Army. The first was held between November and December 1945 at the Red Fort.
- On 15 August 1947, the first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian national flag above the Lahore Gate.
- A significant part of the fort remained under Indian Army control until 22 December 2003, when it was given to the Archaeological Survey of India for restoration.
- In April 2018, Dalmia Bharat Group adopted the Red Fort for maintenance, development, and operations, per a contract worth ₹25 crores for a period of five years, under the government's "Adopt A Heritage" scheme.
- The memorandum of understanding was signed with the ministries of tourism and culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (A.S.I.). Following the deal, Dalmia took over control of the fort's light and sound show.
- Under the contract, Dalmia will have to engage in development by restoring, landscaping, providing basic amenities, and arranging for battery operated cars, amongst other things.
- It can charge visitors an admission fee following clearances from the ministries.
- That revenue will go towards the fort's maintenance and development.
- Dalmia's brand is also to be visible under the contract; it can have its name on souvenirs that are sold and on banners displayed during events at the fort.
- The Lahori and Delhi Gates were used by the public, and the Khizrabad Gate was for the emperor.



- The Lahori Gate is the main entrance, named for its orientation towards the city of Lahore, leading to a domed shopping area known as the Chatta Chowk (covered bazaar).

Diwan-i-Aam –

- This was a place for the official affairs of commoners who sought after legal matters such as tax issues, hereditary complications. The Diwan-i-Aam was also used for state functions.

Nahr-i-Bihisht

- The imperial apartments consist of a row of pavilions on a raised platform along the eastern edge of the fort, overlooking the Yamuna river. The pavilions are connected by a canal, known as the Nahr-i-Bihisht ("Stream of Paradise"), running through the center of each pavilion. Water is drawn from the Yamuna via a tower, the Shahi Burj, at the northeast corner of the fort. The palace is designed to emulate paradise as described in the Quran.

Diwan-i-Khas

- This was a building for the official affairs and requests of the novelty and royal family. A gate on the north side of the Diwan-i-Aam leads to the innermost court of the palace (Jalau Khana) and the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience).
- It is constructed of white marble, inlaid with precious stones. The once-silver ceiling has been restored in wood. François Bernier described seeing the jewelled Peacock Throne here during the 17th century.
- At either end of the hall, over the two outer arches, is an inscription by Persian poet Amir Khusrow,

If heaven can be on the face of the earth, It is this, it is this, it is this.

- (Gar firdaus bar-rue zamin ast, hami asto, hamin asto, hamin ast)

3. Polity

3.1. Speaker Lok Sabha

Warrant of Precedence

- Next only to the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister.

Source of Powers

- Through the Constitution of the land, through the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and through the practices and conventions.

Salary

- The Constitution of India provides that the Speaker's salary and allowances are not to be voted by Parliament and are to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

Term of Office

- Speaker holds Office from the date of his/her election till immediately before the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after the dissolution of the one to which he/she was elected.
- He/She is eligible for re-election.
- On the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, although the Speaker ceases to be a member of the House, he/she does not vacate his/her Office.

Resignation

- The Speaker may, at any time, resign from Office by writing under his/her hand to the Deputy Speaker.

Removal

- The Speaker can be removed from Office only on a resolution of the House passed by a majority of all the then members of the House.
- Such a resolution has to satisfy some conditions like:
 - ✓ It should be specific with respect to the charges and it should not contain arguments, inferences, ironical expressions, imputations or defamatory statements, etc.
 - ✓ Not only these, discussions should be confined to charges referred to in the resolution.
 - ✓ It is also mandatory to give a minimum of 14 days' notice of the intention to move the resolution.

Election of Speaker

- One of the first acts of a newly constituted House is to elect the Speaker.
- The election of a Speaker shall be held on such date as the President may fix. (The election of a Deputy Speaker shall be held on such date as the Speaker may fix)
- Both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are elected from among its members by a simple majority of members present and voting in the House.

- The Speaker pro tem presides over the sitting in which the Speaker is elected, if it is a newly constituted House. If the election falls later in the life of a Lok Sabha, the Deputy Speaker presides.

Oath of the Speaker

- Only as member of the house (No specific oath of Speaker).

Important Points to Remember

- Speaker certifies Money Bills and decides finally what are money matters by reason of the Lok Sabha's overriding powers in financial matters.
- It is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha who presides over joint sittings called in the event of disagreement between the two Houses on a legislative measure.
- It is he/she who decides on granting recognition to the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- Following the 52nd Constitution amendment, the Speaker is vested with the power relating to the disqualification of a member of the Lok Sabha on grounds of defection.

Voting in the House

- Though a member of the House, the Speaker does not vote in the House except on those rare occasions when there is a tie at the end of a decision (casting vote).
- Till date, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has not been called upon to exercise this unique casting vote.

Speaker and the Committees

- The Committees of the House function under the overall direction of the Speaker. All such Committees are constituted by him/her or by the House. The Chairmen of all Parliamentary Committees are nominated by him/her. Any procedural problems in the functioning of the Committees are referred to him/her for directions. Committees like the Business Advisory Committee, the General Purposes Committee and the Rules Committee work directly under his Chairmanship.

Speaker and Inter-Parliamentary Relations

- The Speaker is the ex officio President of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG), set up in 1949, which functions as the National Group of the InterParliamentary Union (IPU) and the Main Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
- In that capacity, members of various Indian Parliamentary Delegations going abroad are nominated by him/her after consulting the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- Most often, the Speaker leads such Delegations. Besides, he/she is the Chairman of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

Speaker & UPSC

UPSC Mains 2020

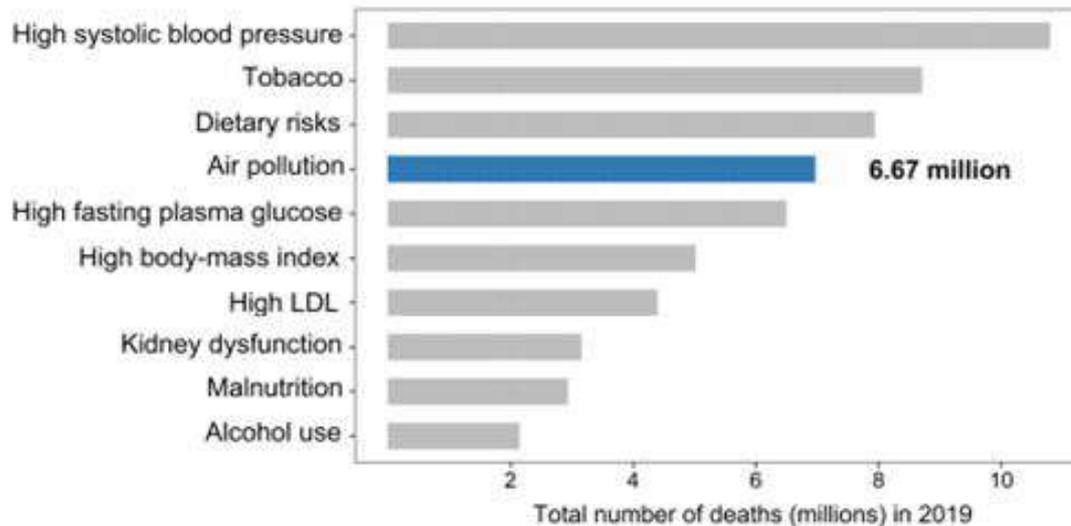
- Explain 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India. (Answer in 150 words). 10 mark.

4. Environment

4.1.State of Global Air 2020

- Recently, a global study, State of Global Air 2020 (SoGA 2020) has been released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI).
- HEI is an independent, nonprofit research institute funded jointly by the USA's Environmental Protection Agency and others.

FIGURE 1 Global ranking of risk factors by total number of deaths from all causes in 2019.



- Air pollution was the 4th leading risk factor for early death worldwide in 2019, surpassed only by high blood pressure, tobacco use, and poor diet.
- It is the first-ever comprehensive analysis of air pollution’s global impact on newborns.

Findings

- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are among the top ten countries with the highest PM2.5 (particulate matter) exposures in 2019 and all of these countries experienced increases in outdoor PM2.5 levels between 2010 and 2019.

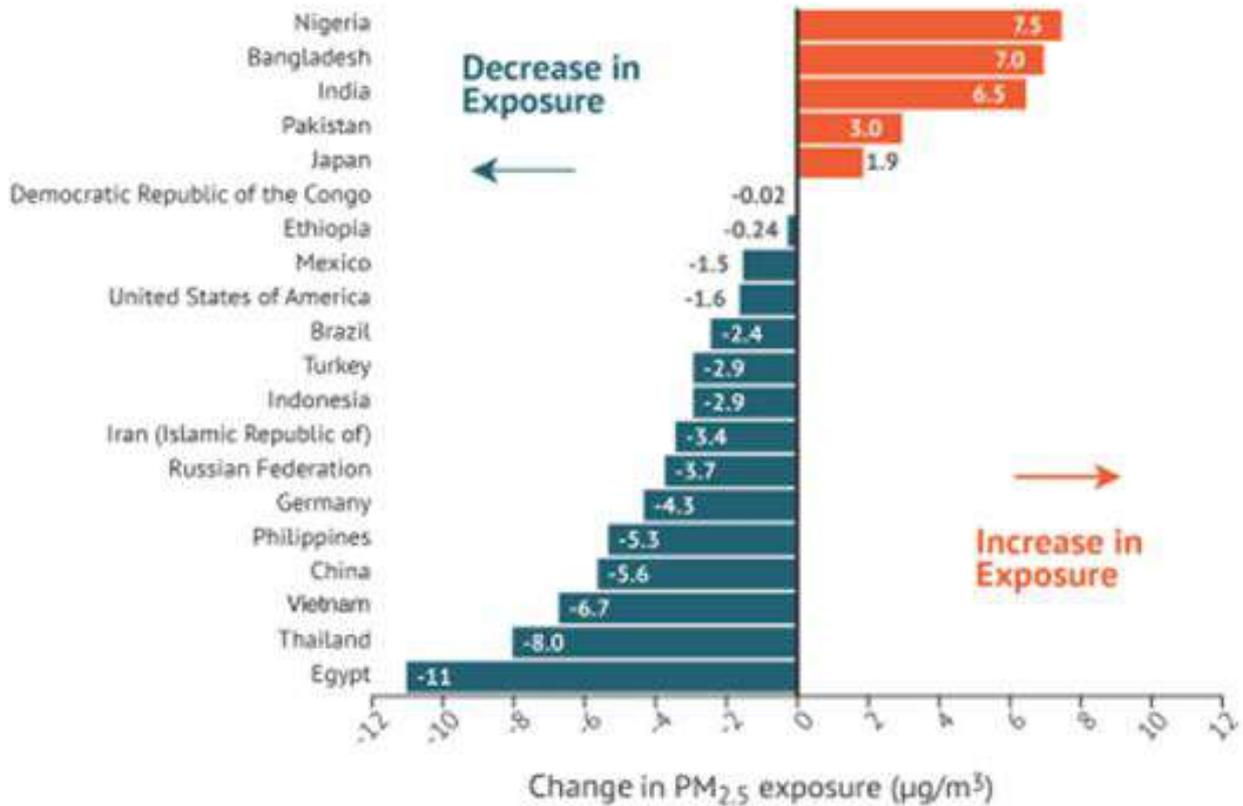
TABLE 1 Top 10 countries with the highest population-weighted annual average PM_{2.5} exposures in 2019

Country	PM _{2.5} Concentration (µg/m ³)	95% Uncertainty Intervals*
India	83.2	76.1 to 90.7
Nepal	83.1	62.9 to 107
Niger	80.1	42.2 to 145
Qatar	76.0	59.2 to 96.6
Nigeria	70.4	45.4 to 105
Egypt	67.9	47.8 to 92.8
Mauritania	66.8	37.6 to 108
Cameroon	64.5	43.8 to 92.6
Bangladesh	63.4	55.1 to 73.8
Pakistan	62.8	49.9 to 77.5

* The 95% uncertainty intervals are a measure of scientific uncertainty. They reflect a range of values, from the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentile of a possible distribution of values, within which the true concentration is likely to fall.

FIGURE 4 Change in population-weighted annual average PM_{2.5} exposure in the 20 most populous countries, 2010–2019.

State of Global Air 2020



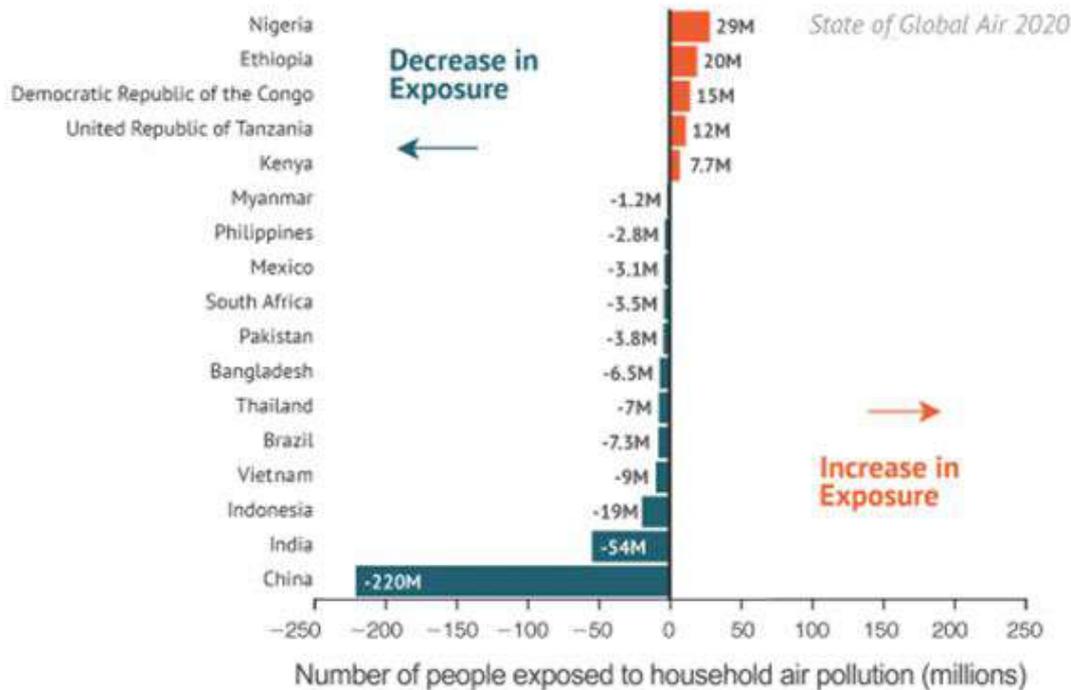
- Studies suggest that ozone levels today are 30% to 70% higher than they were 100 years ago. This increase reflects rising emissions of the chemicals that form ozone, as well as increases in global and local temperatures, which can accelerate ozone formation.
- India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O₃) exposure in 2019. Also, among the 20 most populous countries, India recorded the highest increase (17%) in O₃ concentrations in the past ten years.

TABLE 2 Top 10 countries with the highest ozone exposures globally in 2019.

Country	Tropospheric Ozone (ppb)	95% Uncertainty Intervals*
Qatar	67.2	62.3 to 72.4
Nepal	67.0	65.5 to 68.6
India	66.2	66.0 to 66.3
Bangladesh	64.6	63.9 to 65.3
Bahrain	64.0	51.7 to 75.9
Pakistan	63.3	62.8 to 63.8
Kuwait	62.1	57.6 to 67.1
Iraq (Islamic Republic of)	59.5	58.8 to 60.2
Republic of Korea	57.9	56.4 to 59.3
Saudi Arabia	58.2	57.7 to 58.6

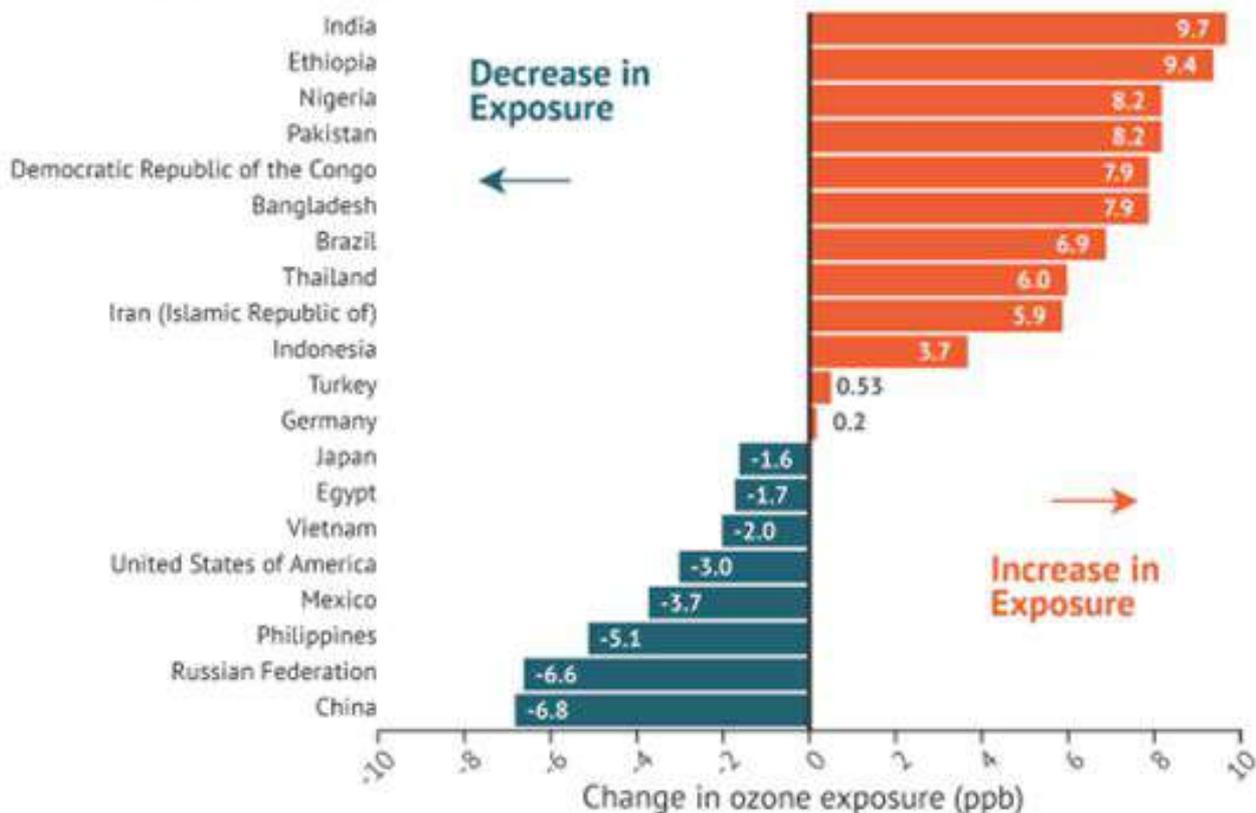
* The 95% uncertainty intervals are a measure of scientific uncertainty. They reflect a range of values, from the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentile of a possible distribution of values, within which the true concentration is likely to fall.

FIGURE 10 Change in the number of people exposed to household air pollution in the 17 countries with over 50 million people and at least 10% of their population cooking with solid fuels, 2010–2019.



- Long-term exposure to outdoor and household (indoor) air pollution contributed to over 1.67 million annual deaths from stroke, heart attack, diabetes, lung cancer, chronic lung diseases, and neonatal diseases, in India in 2019.

FIGURE 7 Change in population-weighted average seasonal 8-hour maximum ozone concentrations in the 20 most populous countries, 2010–2019.



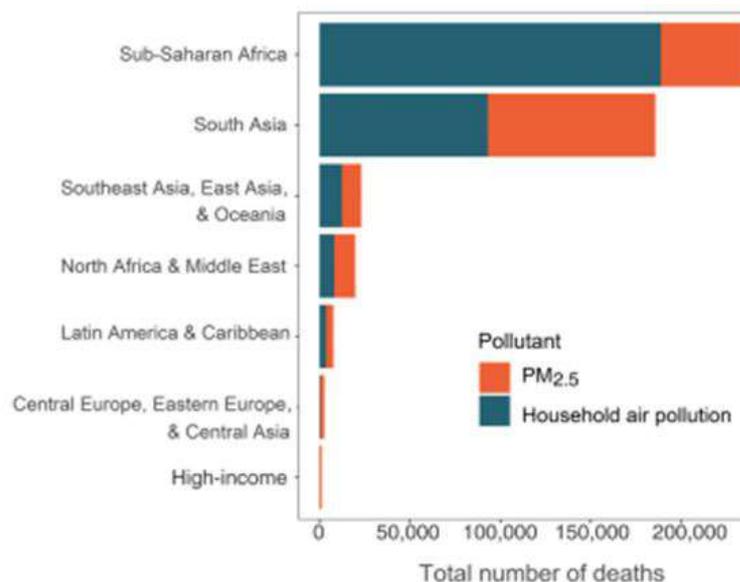
Infant Related Data:

- High PM contributed to the deaths of more than 1,16,000 Indian infants who did not survive their first month.
- Infants in the first month of life are already at a vulnerable stage and a growing body of scientific evidence-supported studies in India indicates that particulate air pollution exposure during pregnancy is linked to low birth weight and preterm birth.
- More than half of these deaths were associated with outdoor PM2.5 and others were linked to the use of solid fuels such as charcoal, wood, and animal dung for cooking.
- Although there has been a slow and steady reduction in household reliance on poor quality fuels, the air pollution from these fuels continues to be a key factor in the deaths of these youngest infants.

Air Pollution and Covid-19:

- Although the link between air pollution and Covid-19 is not completely established, there is clear evidence linking air pollution and increased heart and lung disease. Also, there is growing concern that exposure to high levels of air pollution during winter months in South Asian countries and East Asia could exacerbate the effects of Covid-19.

FIGURE 25 Deaths attributable to particulate matter in 2019 among babies in their first month of life in the GBD Super Regions.



- Air pollution – comprising ambient PM2.5, ozone, and household air pollution— is an increasingly important risk factor contributing to death and disability worldwide.
- In 2019, air pollution ranked 4th among major mortality risk factors globally, accounting for nearly 6.75 million early deaths and 213 million years of healthy life lost.
- Ambient PM2.5 accounted for 4.14 million deaths (118 million years of healthy life lost); household air pollution accounted for 2.31 million deaths (91.5 million years of healthy life lost), and ozone accounted for about 365,000 early deaths (6.21 million years of healthy life lost).
- Taken together, these forms of air pollution accounted for more than 1 in 9 deaths worldwide in 2019.