

What is the SAFAR system?

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About SAFAR system:

- It stands for **System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research**.
- SAFAR is an **air quality monitoring system**.
- It was **introduced by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** to provide **location specific information on air quality in near real time** and its **forecast upto 3 days in India**.
- It is **developed by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, along with India Meteorological Department (IMD) and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF).
- **Objective: To increase awareness among the general public regarding the air quality** changes in their city well in advance so that appropriate mitigation measures and systematic action can be taken up for betterment of air quality and related health issues.
- The **World Meteorological Organization has recognised SAFAR as a prototype activity** on the basis of the high quality control and standards maintained in its implementation.

How is the Air Quality Index (AQI) calculated in India?

- AQI is calculated **based on the average concentration of a particular pollutant measured over a standard time interval** (24 hours for most pollutants, 8 hours for carbon monoxide and ozone).

- **Eight individual pollutants** are monitored for the calculation of AQI in India. These are **PM10, PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ground-level ozone, ammonia, and lead.**
 - To calculate AQI, data for a **minimum of three pollutants must be present**, of which one should be either PM10 or PM2.5.
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Q1) What is the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)?

It is a specialized agency of the United Nations whose mandate covers weather, climate and water resources.

Source: [Air quality in Delhi-NCR continue to remain in 'very poor' category](#)

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