

Secondary Pollutants

June 29, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



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Secondary Pollutants Latest News

Secondary pollutants, particularly ammonium sulphate, are responsible for nearly one-third of India's fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution, said a study from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

About Secondary Pollutants

- Secondary pollutants are **pollutants which form in the atmosphere**.
- These pollutants are **not emitted directly from a source** (like vehicles or power plants).
 - **Pollutants** that are **emitted** into the environment **from a source** are called **primary pollutants**.
- **Secondary pollutants** form as a **result of the pollutants emitted from these sources reacting with molecules in the atmosphere to form a new pollutant**.
- **Examples** of secondary pollutants are **ozone and secondary organic aerosol** (haze).
- Secondary pollutants are **harder to control** because they have **different ways of synthesizing**, and the formation is not well understood.
- They form naturally in the environment and cause **problems like photochemical smog**.

- The phenomenon of photochemical smog is a result of the **interactions of primary pollutants with other molecules** in the air, **such as molecular oxygen, water, and hydrocarbons**.
- These **combine to form yellow clouds** that are harmful to humans.

Source: TH

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