



INCREASE IN POLLUTION LEVEL - ENVIRONMENT

NEWS: India's pollution level soars as does fossil fuel use, climate fight gets tougher

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

- **Smog Concerns in India:** Northern India continues to grapple with persistent smog, reflecting broader air quality issues.
- **Key Reports:** Two major climate-related reports were released during COP29, both highlighting India's role in global emissions:
 - **Global Carbon Budget 2024:** This data-driven study focuses on carbon emissions.
 - **United States Energy Information Administration (EIA) Report:** It emphasizes India's role in global oil consumption growth.

India's Emission Status

- **Fastest-Growing Emissions:** The Global Carbon Budget 2024 reveals India as the world's fastest-growing emitter of greenhouse gases from fossil fuels.
 - **Projected Increase:** India's fossil fuel-related CO₂ emissions are expected to grow by 4.6% in 2024.
 - **Coal Dependence:** The report indicates that India's increased emissions are mainly due to coal-fired power plants, which remain a primary energy source.
 - **Renewable Contribution:** A smaller share of the energy demand is met by new renewable sources.
- **Comparative Emission Share:**
 - **India vs. Major Powers:** Despite the rapid growth, India accounts for 8% of global emissions.
 - **China's Position:** China remains the top emitter with 32% of global emissions, although its growth is just 0.2%.
 - **US and EU:** The United States and European Union have shown declines in emissions by 0.6% and 3.8% respectively.

Global Carbon Budget and Fossil Fuel Insights

- **Global Fossil Fuel Emissions:** Worldwide, carbon emissions from fossil fuels grew by 0.8%, reaching 37.4 billion tonnes in 2024.
- **Total Carbon Emissions:** Including emissions from land-use changes like deforestation, total emissions are projected to reach 41.6 billion tonnes in 2024 (up from 40.6 billion tonnes in 2023).

India's Renewable Efforts

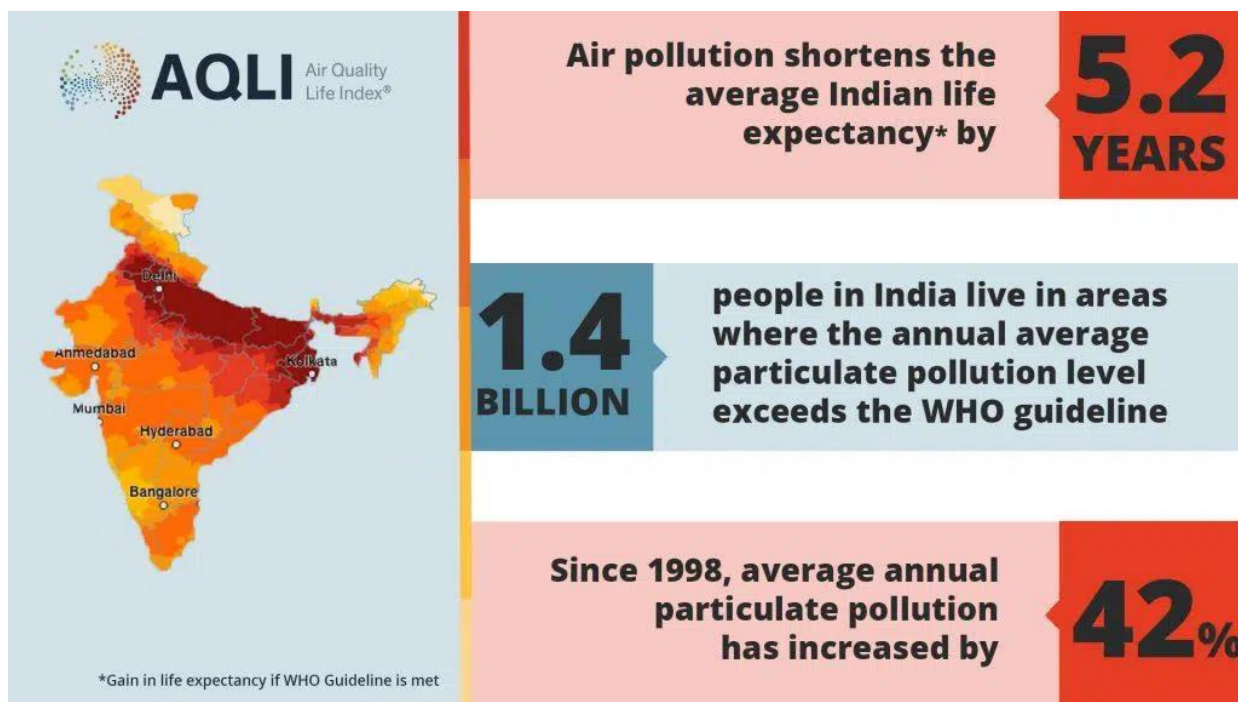
- **Moderate Increase:** India added less than 15 GW of renewables, relying on coal to meet record power demand.



- **Emission Growth:** India's emissions growth rate is 22 times that of China.

Oil Consumption Growth

- **India as a Key Oil Consumer:**
 - **Leading in Oil Demand:** The EIA identifies India as the primary source of global oil consumption growth.
 - **Projected Trends:** India is expected to account for 25% of the rise in global oil demand over 2024-2025.
 - **Consumption Increase:** Global liquid fuel consumption is projected to grow by 1 million barrels per day in 2024 and by 1.2 million barrels per day in 2025.



India's Defense and Development Challenges

- **Low Per Capita Emission:** Indian officials highlight India's lower per capita emissions compared to Western countries.
- **Absolute Emission Figures:** Although India's emissions are growing rapidly, they remain significantly below those of China and the US in absolute terms.
- **Development Needs:**
 - **Affordable Energy:** India's growing population and economic needs drive the demand for accessible energy sources.
 - **Pressure from Global North:** India faces demands from wealthier nations to reduce coal dependency and adopt costlier, cleaner energy solutions.

Tensions Between Developing and Developed Nations



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- **Climate Finance Demands:** Developing countries, led by India, are advocating for a \$1.3 trillion transfer from developed nations as compensation for historical pollution.
- **Preserving Carbon Budgets:** These nations emphasize the need to maintain their carbon budgets to support economic growth.
- **North-South Divide:**
 - **Historical Responsibility:** Developing countries accuse the Global North of using a significant portion of the global carbon budget for their own development.
 - **High-Cost Development Push:** Wealthier nations are pressuring developing countries to adopt costly green technologies funded by Western resources.

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