

India Top List of Pollution-Linked Deaths a Study

Dr.A.C.Deepa M.C.S.,MBA., M.Phil.,PGDCA.,Ph.D.,

Assistant Professor,

Department of Corporate Secretaryship,

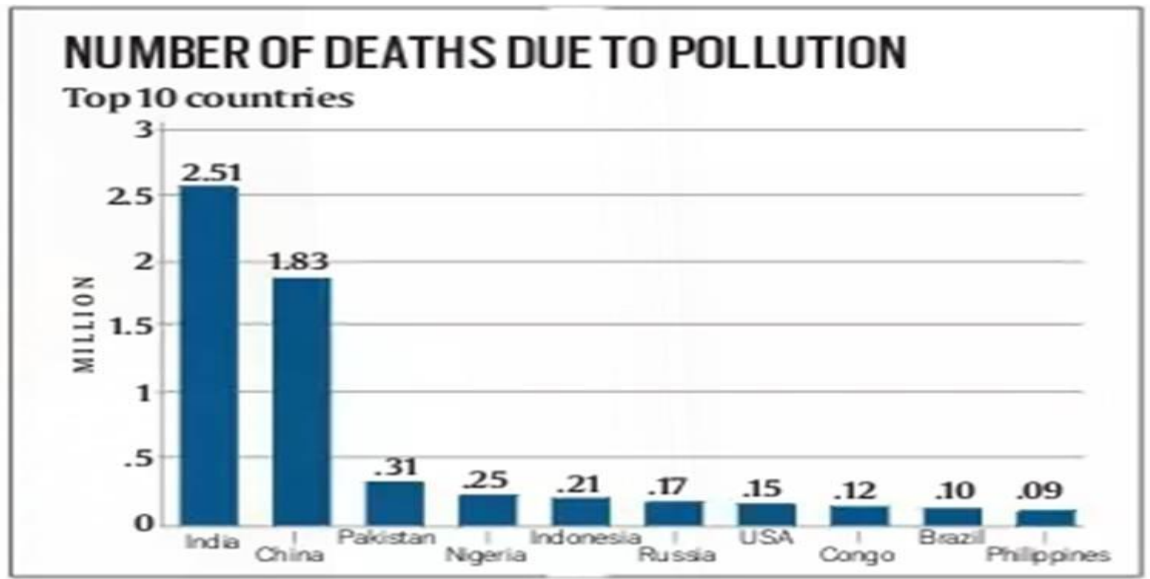
Dr. N.G.P Arts and Science College, Coimbatore – 48.

According to the new study published in medical journal The Lancet, India has topped a list of countries with pollution-related deaths in 2015. In India, 2.51 million people died prematurely in 2015 due to diseases linked to air, water and other forms of pollution. The 2.51 million deaths in India, 1.81 million are related to air pollution, 0.64 million to water pollution, 0.17 million to occupational exposure and 95,000 linked to lead pollution.

KEY FACTS

Globally, air pollution was the big contributor linked to 6.5 million deaths in 2015, ahead of water pollution (1.8 million) and workplace-related pollution (0.8 million). Most of the pollution-related deaths — 92%— were reported in low and middle income countries, and in rapidly industrial nations such as India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Kenya. China, with 1.8 million pollution-linked deaths in 2015, followed India. Most of these deaths were due to non-communicable diseases caused by pollution, such as

heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)



India accounted for about 28% of an estimated 9 million pollution-linked deaths worldwide in 2015 and topped list of deaths linked to polluted air (1.81 million) and water(0.64million) China (1.58 million) was placed after India in deaths linked to air-pollution, followed by Pakistan (0.22 million), Bangladesh (0.21 million) and Russia (0.14 million). In death linked to water pollution, Nigeria (0.16 million) and Pakistan (74,000) was placedafterIndia.

The Lancet study concluded that pollution is a larger environmental cause of disease and death globally — three times more those from HIV-AIDS, TB and malaria put together. It also found that pollution from outdoor and indoor air, water and soil contamination, and chemical pollutants were one of larger risk factors leading to premature death.

BACKGROUND

For the study, researchers had used data from Global Burden of Disease study, which brings together comprehensive estimates on effects of pollution on health,

provides economic costs, and reveals the extent of contaminated sites across the world for the first time. It aimed to raise global awareness on pollution, end neglect of pollution-related diseases, and mobilised resources and political will to effectively confront pollution.

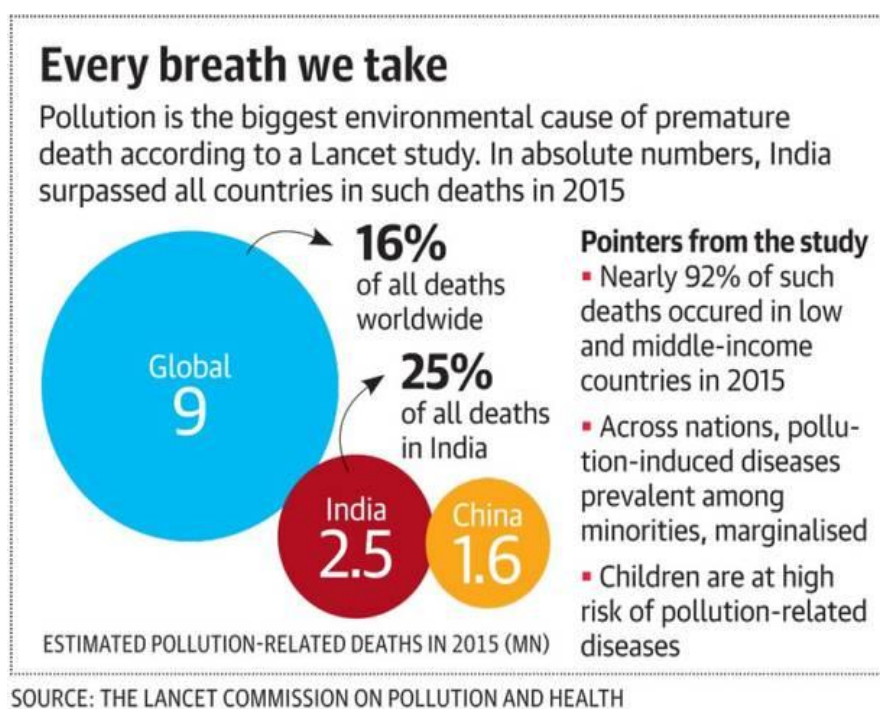
MOST POLLUTION-LINKED DEATHS OCCUR IN INDIA

OVER A QUARTER OF ALL FATALITIES IN 2015 WERE IN COUNTRY: STUDY.

With 2.51 million deaths in 2015, India has been ranked No. 1 in pollution deaths, according to a report by The Lancet Commission on pollution and health. China recorded the second highest number of such deaths (1.8 million). India accounted for about 28 percent of an estimated nine million pollution linked deaths worldwide in 2015. The Lancet Commission on pollution and health is a two-year project in which more than 40 international health and environmental authors led by environmental scientist Philip Landrigan were involved.

At 6.5 million premature deaths globally, air pollution was the leading cause of deaths in 2015. Among the world's 10 most populous countries that year, the largest increase in numbers of pollution deaths are seen in India and Bangladesh. But the absolute number of air pollution deaths in Bangladesh was only 0.2 million. With 1.58 million, China had the second-highest number of air pollution deaths after India (1.81 million). But the number of water pollution deaths in China was only about 34,000, compared to 0.64 million in the case of India. Nearly 25% of all deaths in India in 2015 were caused by pollution; Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and Kenya too reported that one in four deaths were caused by pollution.

In the case of air pollution, the number of deaths in India from ambient air pollution was 1.09 million, while deaths from household air pollution from solid fuels were 0.97 million. In the case of water pollution, 0.5 million deaths were caused by unsafe water source, while unsafe sanitation caused 0.32 million deaths.



The results were published in *The Lancet*.

Several cities in India and China recorded average annual concentrations of particulate matter PM_{2.5} pollution of greater than 100 µg/m³, and more than 50% of global deaths due to ambient air pollution in 2015 occurred in India and China.

Deaths from air pollution were a result of diseases such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Pollution has been responsible for the most non-communicable disease deaths. “In 2015, all forms of pollution combined were responsible for 21% of all deaths from cardiovascular disease, 26% of deaths due to ischaemic heart disease, 23% due to stroke, 51% to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and 43% due to lung cancer,” says the report.

“Pollution is responsible for more deaths than a high-sodium diet (4.1 million), obesity (4.0 million), alcohol (2.3 million), road accidents (1.4 million), or child and maternal malnutrition (1.4 million). Pollution was also responsible for three times as many deaths as AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined,” it says.

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