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# Lucknow tops clean air survey among India's 47 biggest cities

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LUCKNOW: Three UP cities - Lucknow, Prayagraj and Varanasi - have bagged top three slots among 47 cities with population of over 10 lakh in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2022 (clean air survey) conducted by the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MEFCC) under its National Clean Air Programme.

Lucknow scored 177.6 marks and bagged the first prize with a cash reward of Rs 1.5 crore for reducing average ambient PM10 concentration by 31% from 2019-20 to 2021-22 and scoring higher on actions taken to check burning of biomass and solid waste.

Mayor Sanyukta Bhatia and municipal commissioner Indrajit Singh received the awards.

# UP CITIES TOP CLEAN AIR SURVEY

Top cities in various categories under Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2022



## Category 1 (Over 10L population)

Cities	Ranking	Score (Out of 200)
Lucknow	First	177.6
Prayagraj	Second	174.9
Varanasi	Third	173.8

UP cities surveyed | Varanasi, Prayagraj, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Agra & Ghaziabad



## Category 2 (3-10L population)

Cities	Ranking	Score (Out of 200)
Moradabad	First	176.2
Firozabad	Second	166.5
Amravati	Third	165

UP cities surveyed | Bareilly, Moradabad, Gorakhpur, Noida, Firozabad & Jhansi

## Category 3 (Less than 3L population)

Cities	Ranking	Score (Out of 200)
Dewas	First	175.5
Sunder Nagar	Second	169.7
Nalagarh	Third	167

UP cities surveyed | Rae Bareilly, Gajraula (Amroha), Anpara (Sonbhadra) & Khurja (Bulandshahr)

(Source: Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change)

Prayagraj stood second with 174.9 marks and got the cash reward of Rs 1 crore, while Varanasi received Rs 50 lakh reward by scoring 173.8 marks.

The cities were judged on the basis of the steps initiated by the civic authorities concerned to improve air quality.

In the second category of 44 cities with a population of 3-10 lakh, two cities from Uttar Pradesh, Moradabad and Firozabad, won top two positions, while Amravati (Maharashtra) stood third.

Total 131 cities participated in the survey conducted for the first time.

In the third category of 40 cities with a population of less than 3 lakh, Dewas (Madhya Pradesh), and Sundar Nagar and Nalagarh (both Himachal Pradesh), secured top three positions.

Total 131 cities participated in the survey conducted for the first time.

The results were announced in the inaugural ceremony of the two-day International Conference Series on 'Vayu: The Vital Life Force' organised at Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The programme was followed by the distribution of awards by Odisha governor Professor Ganeshi Lal and Union minister of environment, forest & climate change, Bhupender Yadav, to nine best performing cities in the three categories with an objective to motivate these cities and other non-attainment cities to amplify their efforts towards achieving a cleaner and greener India.

According to MEFCC, the rankings are not based on the measurement of the air quality parameters, but on the actions taken by the cities to improve air quality in different domains and the improvement on account of these steps.

Civic authorities of various cities had submitted self-assessment reports on the actions taken by them under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The self-assessment report was based on eight parameters - solid waste management (40 marks), road dust management (40), management of construction and demolition waste (10), control of vehicular emissions (40), measures to abate emissions from industries (30), measures to check other emissions (30), public awareness programmes (5) and improvement in PM 10 concentration in past one year (5). Total marks were 200 and evaluation was done by the Central Pollution Control Board.

In the second category, Moradabad scored 176.2 marks to win the first prize of Rs 75 lakh for reducing PM10 concentration by 36%. Firozabad stood second with 166.5 marks and received the cash reward of Rs 50 lakh followed by Amravati (165 marks) which won Rs 25 lakh.

Dewas bagged the first prize in the third category (below 3 lakh population) with a cash reward of Rs 37.5 lakh by scoring 175.5. Sundar Nagar (169.7 marks) and Nalagarh (167 marks) received cash rewards of Rs 25 lakh and Rs 12.5 lakh, respectively.

