

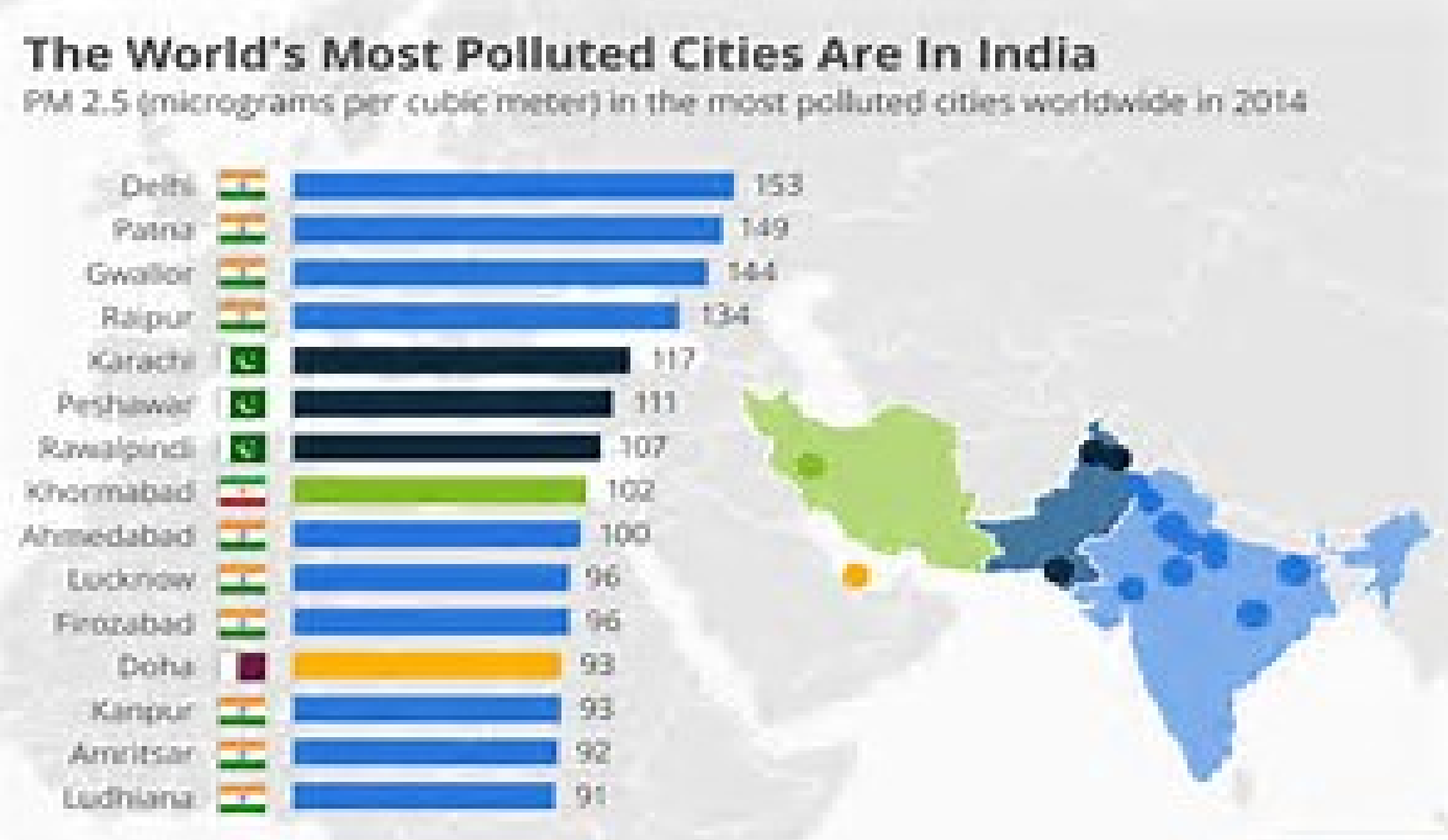
Urbanization in India: An Obituary

NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT

by: Meghana Karan and Shruti Shakthivel

India is urbanizing very rapidly due to the movement of people from rural areas to urban cities for better opportunities. India does not have the resources or money to back this rapid urbanization of the population in general. This urbanization has created many environmental problems with air and water pollution.

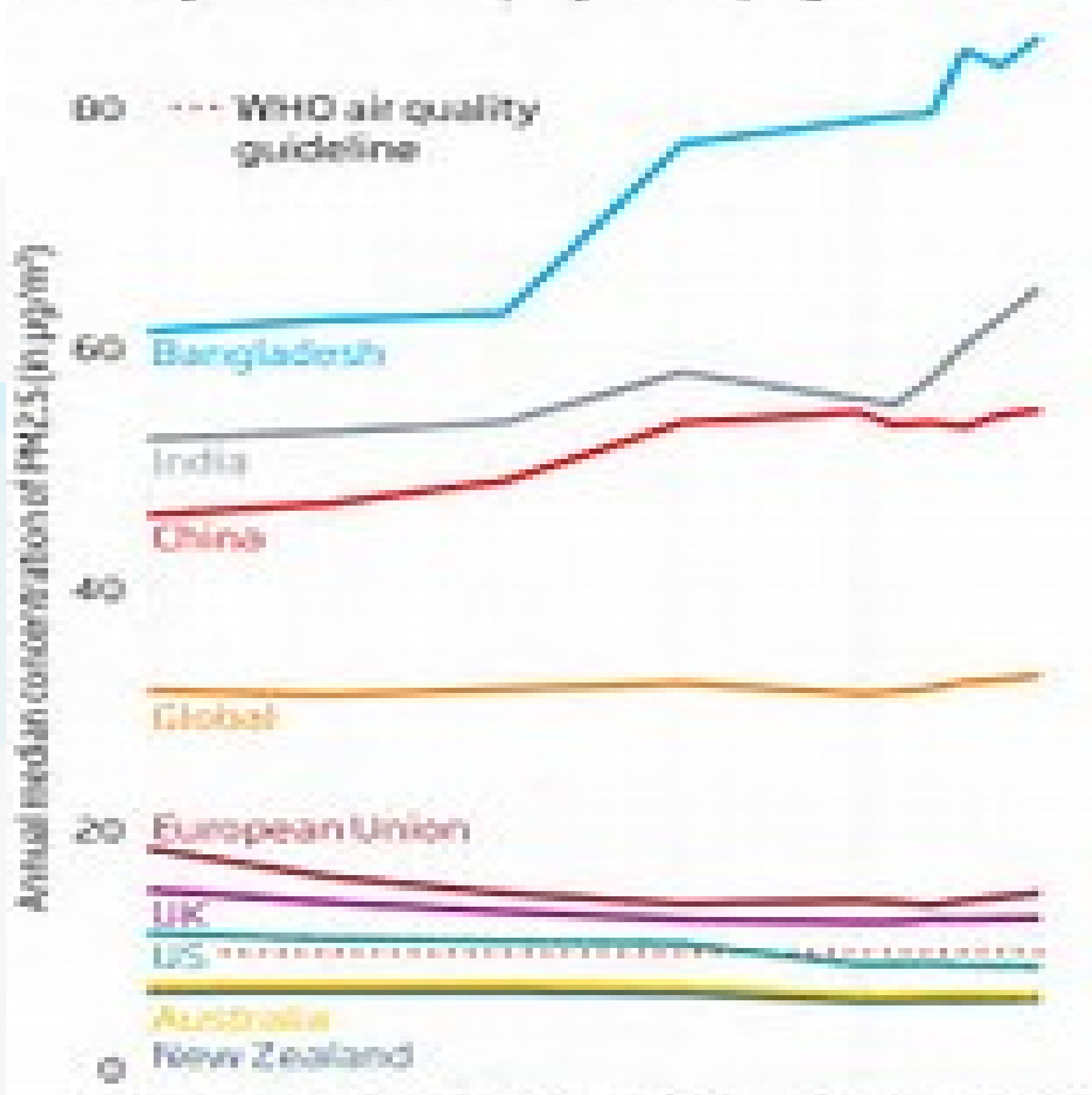
Air Pollution



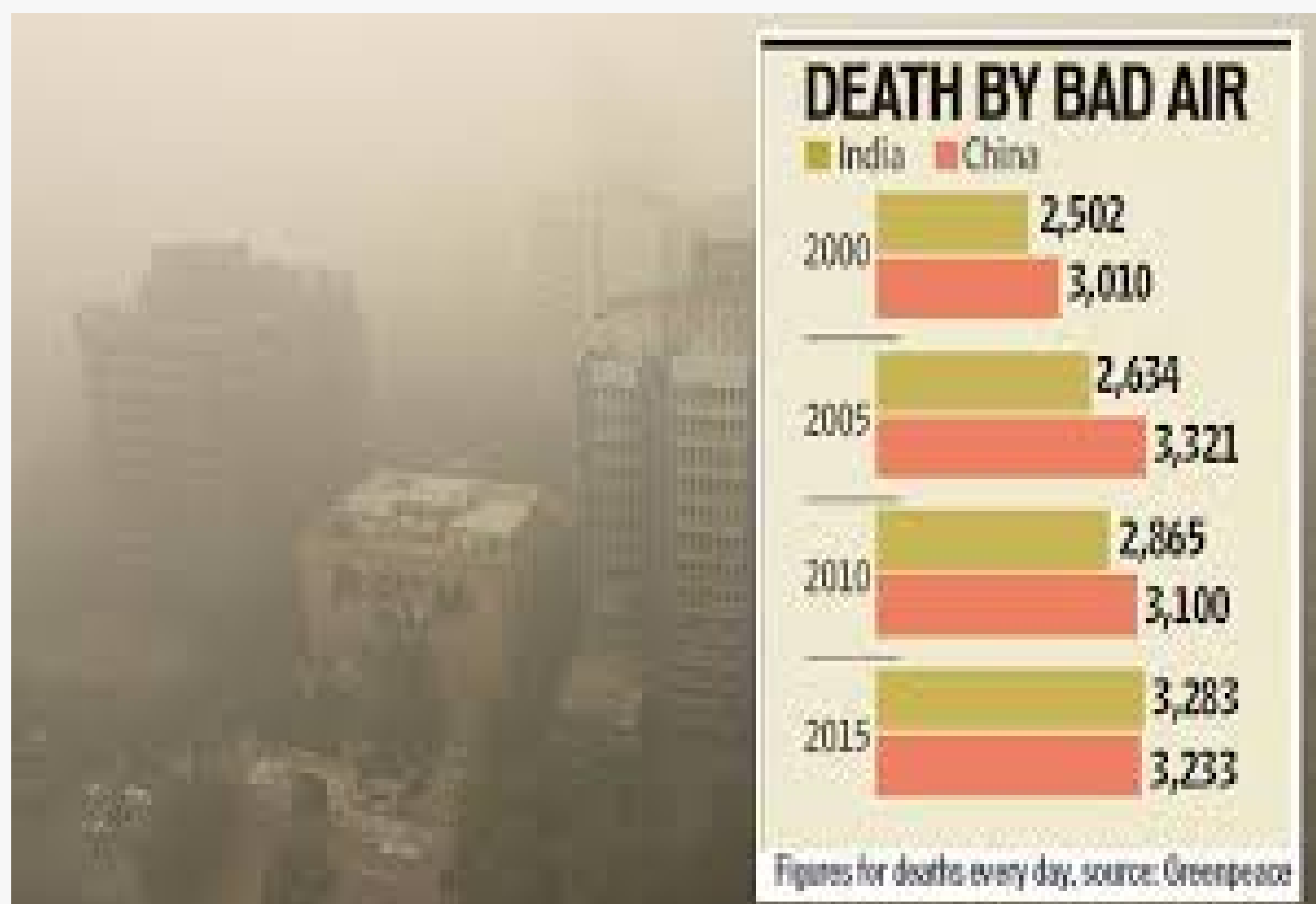
This graph shows the world's top polluted cities. 13 out of the 20 on this list are in India.

Global trends

The slight increase in global pollution levels is largely driven by emissions in rapidly developing countries.

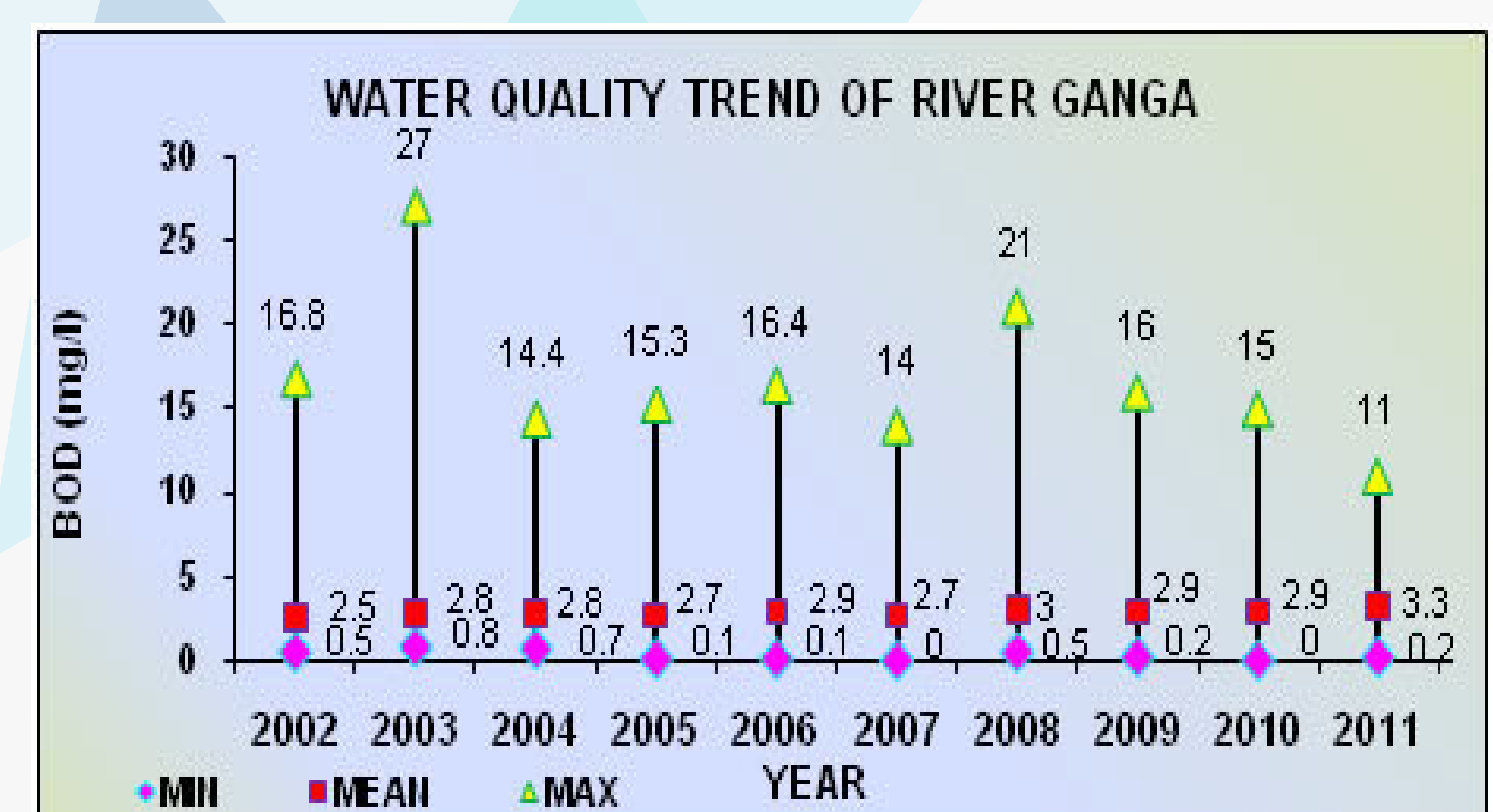
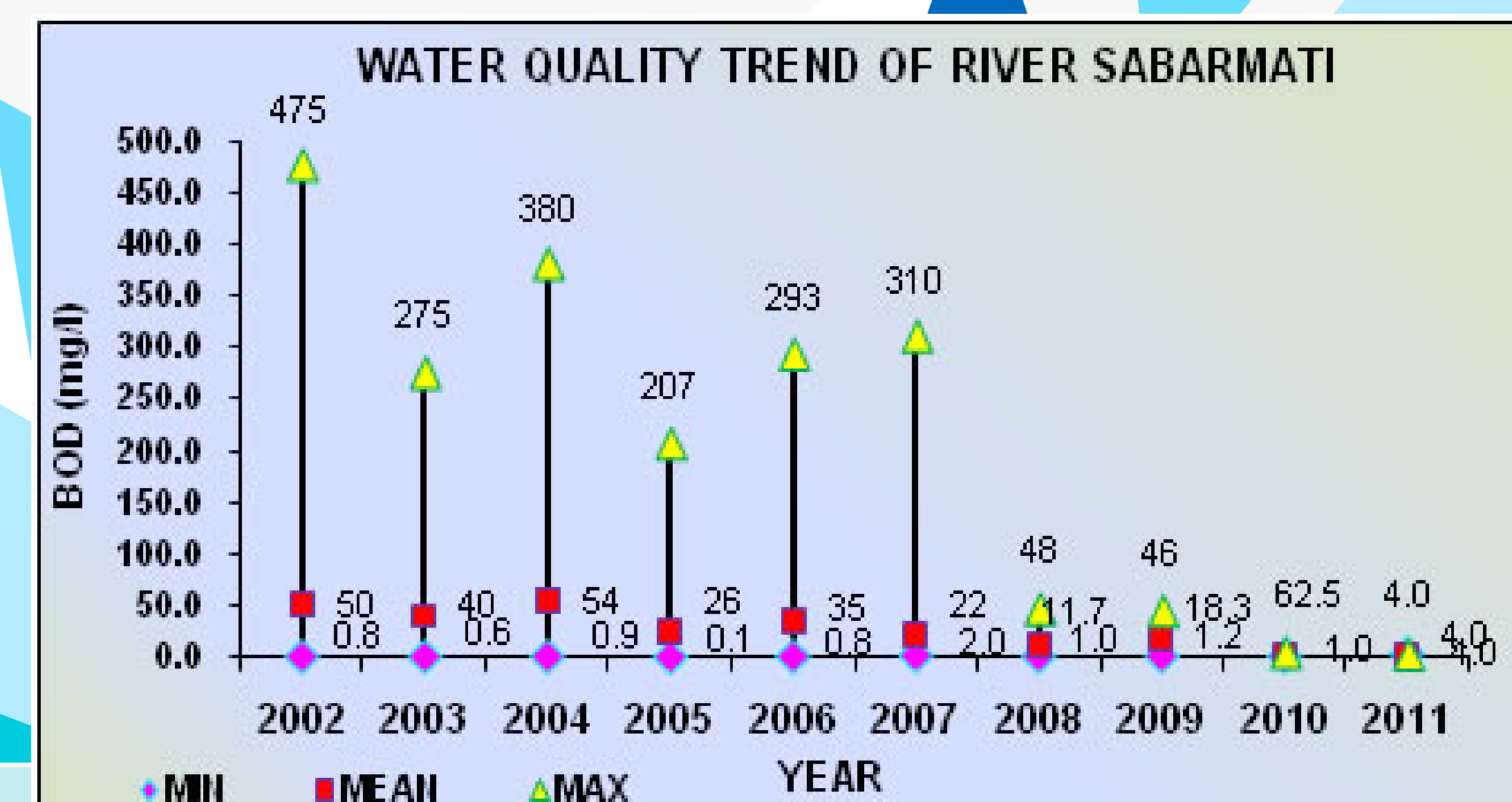
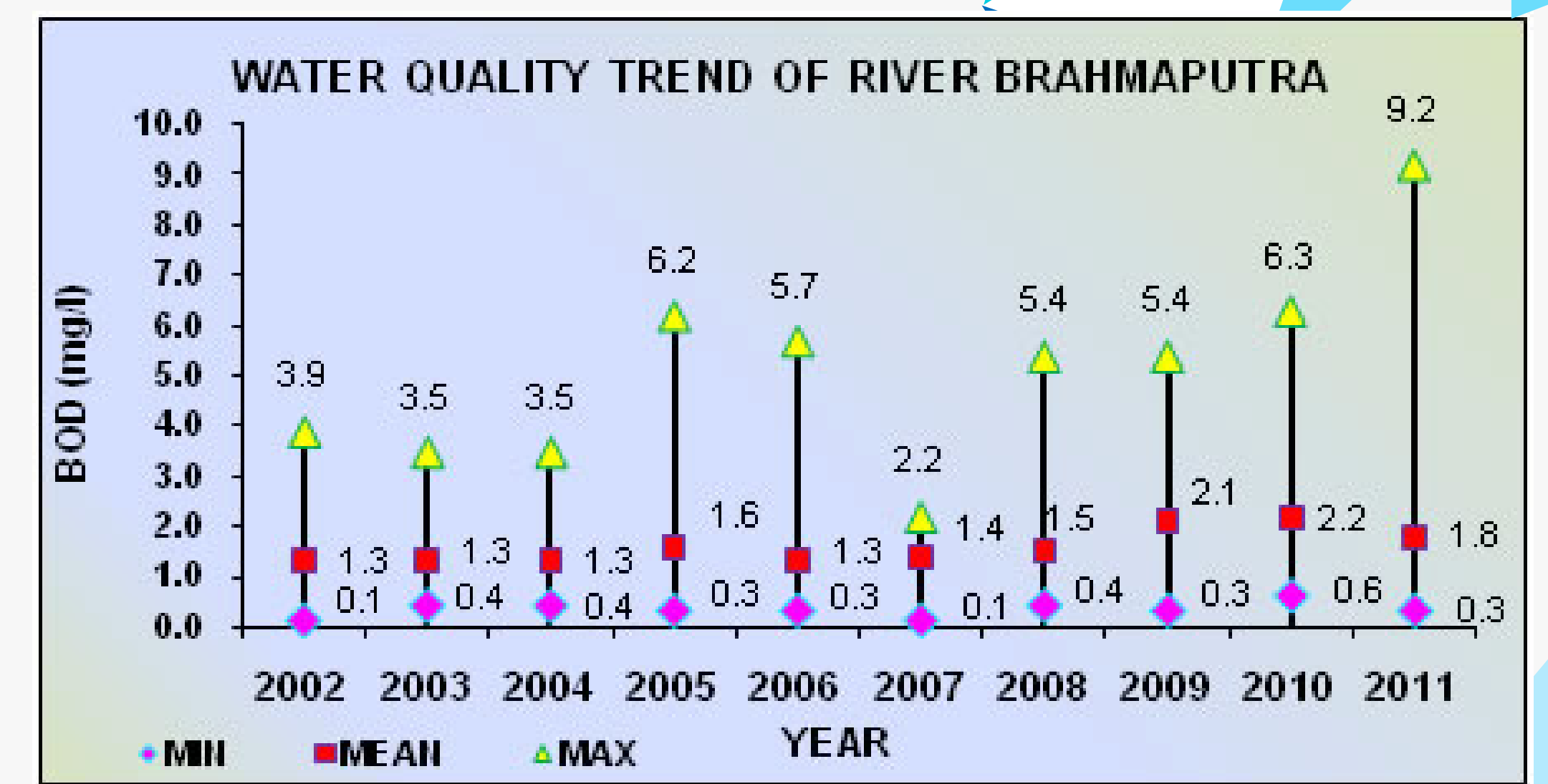


This graph exemplifies how the India is the second highest polluted country to violate WHO's PM10 air pollutants target. PM10 particles are particles that are very easy to enter the deep parts of the lungs.



This graphic shows the deaths that are caused by bad air pollution in India and China. In India, there are so many cars, people, and traffic which leads to these carbon monoxide emissions, resulting in deaths and respiratory diseases.

Water Pollution



The three graphs above demonstrate the water pollution trends in rivers located in India. If the BOD value is above 5, it indicates a nearby pollution near the body of water.

DOMESTIC SEWAGE POISONING WATER

75-80% of water pollution by volume is from domestic sewage

Estimated sewage generation from class-I cities and Class-II towns | **38,254.82 MLD**

Of this, only **30%** or **11,787.38 MLD** is being treated

► Untreated sewage flowing into water bodies has doubled from around **12,000 MLD to 24,000 MLD** in class I and II towns between 1991 and 2008

► There were **269** sewage treatment plants with **211** in class I cities, **31** in class II towns, and **27** in other smaller towns

► The remaining is disposed directly into water bodies, polluting three-fourth of our surface water resources

MLD=Million litres per day
Source: Report by WaterAid India

This figure shows how untreated sewage plays a factor in water pollution. There is no proper sewage treatment in India. From this contaminated water, diseases like malaria and diarrhea are very easy to catch. According to the CDC, 25% of diarrhea related deaths in the world occur in India.

Past Solutions

Ganga Action Plan

This solution would help develop better sewage treatment technology, but in the end, the technology failed.

Court Orders

Even though the Supreme Court of India makes many Court Orders and policies, they always fail because the citizens never follow through.

Our Solutions

Greener Transportation

Cities could institute efficient and environmentally friendly public transportation, similar to the metros in Delhi and Chennai. This would help reduce carbon monoxide emissions.

Education

Since the Indian government hides air quality data from their citizens, mandatory environmental science classes can be instituted to educate children at a young age.

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