

The Implications Of The New Air (Prevention And Control Of Pollution) Act, 2021 On Air Pollution In India.

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Abstract:

In India, air pollution poses a serious threat to public health. The government responded by passing the new Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021, also known as the New Air Act. This study paper examines the Act's possible effects on India's air quality. It examines the Act's provisions, reviews the body of research on air pollution management tactics, and assesses the ways in which the Act could potentially solve important issues. A thorough examination of government papers, scholarly journals, and legal documents is part of the research technique. The literature evaluation offers valuable insights into the efficacy of different air pollution management strategies implemented worldwide. The purpose of this analysis is to evaluate the New Air Act's ability to reduce air pollution and enhance public health in India.

Keywords:

Air pollution, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021, India, Clean Air, Public health

Objective:

The objective of this research study is to provide a thorough analysis of the possible effects on air pollution in India of the New Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021 (hence referred to as the New Air Act).

- Analyze the provisions of the Act: Examine and evaluate the main features of the New Air Act, such as the proposed Air Pollution Remediation Fund, graded action plans, air quality monitoring networks, and tighter emission requirements.
- Evaluate Possible Impact: Consider the potential effects of these regulations on India's air quality. This entails looking at possible drops in the concentrations of air pollutants, better air quality in areas that are severely polluted, and how well the Act works to discourage pollution and advance cleaner technologies.
- Compare and contrast: Draw attention to the possible benefits of the more stringent rules and improved enforcement mechanisms in the New Air Act by contrasting its methodology with that of the current Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- Form Theories: Create testable hypotheses based on your comprehension of the Act and your current understanding of air pollution management techniques. These theories will direct the examination and assessment of the Act's possible effects.
- Determine Obstacles: The study will identify and address any potential obstacles to the Act's implementation in addition to examining its possible advantages. This could

involve problems with limited resources, the efficacy of enforcement, and the requirement for public involvement.

Introduction:

India's residents' health and well-being are at risk due to the country's extreme air pollution. Big cities are always among the most polluted places in the world. The Indian government passed the new Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021, realizing how urgent this problem was. The goal of this Act is to enhance efforts to prevent pollution and maintain air quality by expanding upon the Air Act of 1981.

The possible effects of the New Air Act on air pollution in India are examined in detail in this study report. It looks at the main points of the Act and evaluates how they deal with important facets of air pollution control. Through a review of prior research on effective global air pollution management techniques, the report assesses the probable efficacy of the Act's methodology.

In India, the negative impacts of air pollution on public health are widely known. Research has connected heart disease, respiratory conditions, and even early mortality to air pollution. Air pollution has major financial impacts as well since it affects worker productivity, healthcare expenditures, and agricultural yields.

The Indian government has launched a number of programs to reduce air pollution in response to this situation. Among them is the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which was introduced in 2019 and has lofty goals to cut air pollution by 2024. The New Air Act of 2021 is an essential piece of legislation that advances the objectives of the NCAP.

This study examines whether India's battle for clean air could be significantly impacted by the New Air Act. The goal of the article is to evaluate the Act's advantages and disadvantages by examining its provisions in light of current research on efficient air pollution management methods. The final objective is to identify opportunities for additional policy creation and implementation as well as to contribute to the current discussion on air pollution reduction techniques in India.

Methods of Research:

The present study utilizes a thorough review methodology. Among the primary sources are:

- Legal documents: A comprehensive examination of the New Air Act, 2021, with an emphasis on the parts concerning emission regulations, enforcement strategies, and institutional fortification.
- Academic publications: evaluation of academic publications on air pollution management techniques used in different nations. The efficiency of policies like fuel laws, emission limits, and technical developments will be the main topic of this review.
- Government reports: Review of documents detailing the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and reports issued by Indian government bodies such as the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Reviews of Literature:

Strategies for reducing air pollution have been the subject of extensive investigation. Research has demonstrated that tighter industry and car emission regulations can effectively lower air pollution levels. Regulations encouraging the use of cleaner fuels, like the adoption of electric vehicles, have also shown promising results.

Research also highlights how crucial technological developments are to the development of pollution control methods. Research has demonstrated that the implementation of pollution collection and filtration systems, along with investments in cleaner industrial processes, can dramatically cut emissions.

The literature review also emphasizes how important enforcement measures are. Tight oversight combined with heavy fines for non-compliance has been shown to be an effective deterrence against pollution. Furthermore, effective programs must prioritize raising public knowledge and encouraging citizen participation in pollution management initiatives.

New Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021:

Building on the groundwork established by the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981, the New Air Act was enacted in 2021. It brings in a number of significant provisions intended to bolster India's efforts to control pollution and maintain air quality. Here's a closer look at some of the key features of the Act:

- **Emission Standards:** Under the Act, automobiles and industries are subject to stricter emission regulations set by the government. Regulations for sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and other pollutants may fall under this category.
- **Action Plans and Air Quality Monitoring:** The Act requires the establishment of a nationwide network for the systematic monitoring of air quality. The Act mandates that critically contaminated locations have graded action plans created based on this data. These plans would specify the precise actions that residents, government agencies, and businesses must take to reduce pollution in those areas.
- **Institutional Strengthening:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are highlighted as being strengthened by the Act. This includes giving them more personnel, money, and technical know-how so they can effectively enforce the Act's provisions.
- **Penalties and Fines:** The Act raises the costs associated with breaking emission guidelines and other laws. This is intended to discourage businesses and individuals from breaking pollution control regulations.

- **An Air Pollution Remediation Fund:** It is to be established, according to the legislation. Initiatives to lower air pollution, like public awareness campaigns and the promotion of cleaner technologies, would be funded by this fund.

Building on the foundation set by the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter Air Act), is the New Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021 (hereinafter New Air Act). Although they both seek to reduce air pollution, the New Air Act makes a number of important improvements:

Key Differences Between Air Act (1981) and New Air Act (2021):

1. Strictness of Emission Regulations:

- The Air Act of 1981 created a framework for industry and automotive emission requirements. Still, questions were raised about how adequate these criteria were.
- The New Air Act of 2021 gives the government the authority to set more stringent emission regulations, which could result in a greater decrease in air pollution.

2. Monitoring Air Quality and Action Plans:

- The Air Act of 1981 did not place a strong emphasis on thorough monitoring of air quality. There was no clear requirement for action plans in contaminated areas.
- The establishment of a national network for monitoring air quality is mandated by the New Air Act (2021). For places that are severely contaminated, this data will be used to create graded action plans that specify the precise steps that need to be taken to remedy the problem.

3. Strengthening of Institutions:

- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) were established under the Air Act of 1981. However, their efficacy may have been limited by a lack of resources and a lack of technological know-how.
- The New Air Act of 2021 places a strong emphasis on bolstering the CPCB and SPCBs through more funding, personnel, and technical know-how to enable them to carry out their enforcement duties more effectively.

4. Sanctions and Dissuasion:

- Penalties for non-compliance with the Air Act of 1981 were deemed insufficient to serve as a potent deterrence.
- The goal of the New Air Act (2021) is to deter non-compliance by significantly increasing the penalties for breaking emission standards and other laws.

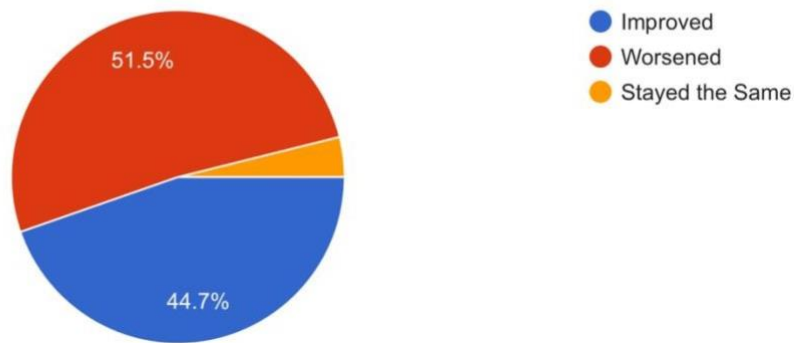
5. Monetary Provisions:

- The Air Act of 1981 did not provide a specific fund for programs aimed at reducing air pollution.
- The establishment of an Air Pollution Remediation Fund is suggested by the New Air Act (2021). Important initiatives like public awareness campaigns and the promotion of greener technologies might be funded by this fund

Data Analysis:

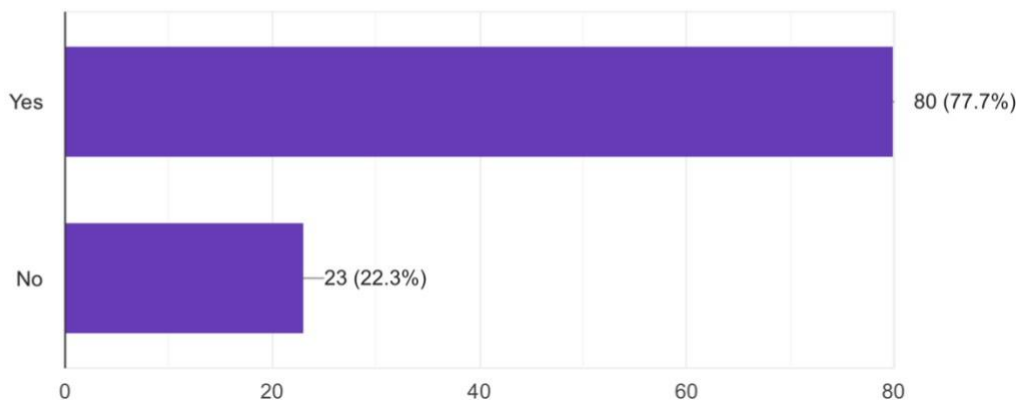
In your experience, how has air quality changed in your city in the past few years

103 responses



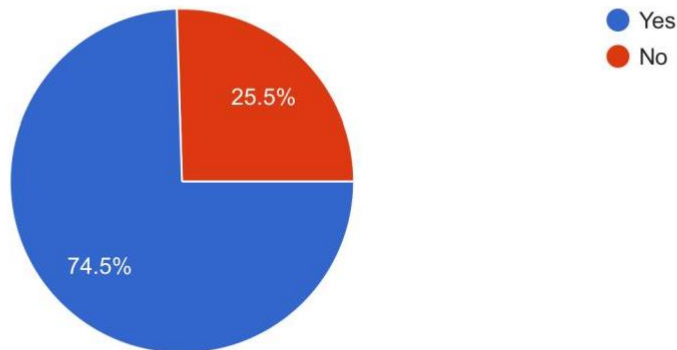
Have you heard of any recent changes to air pollution laws in India?

103 responses



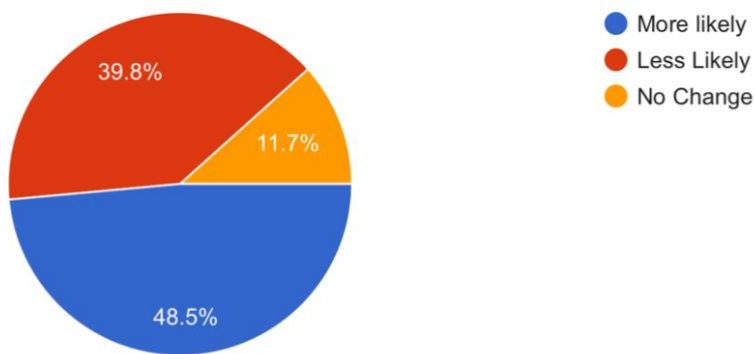
If yes, are you aware of the key differences between the old and new laws?

102 responses



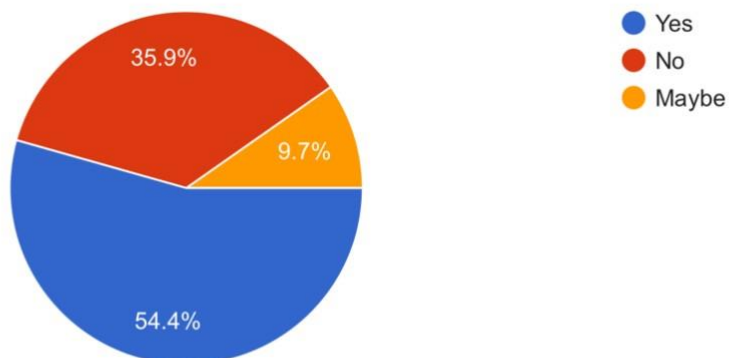
Compared to the previous law, do you think the new Air Act (2021) makes it easier for authorities to penalize polluters?

103 responses



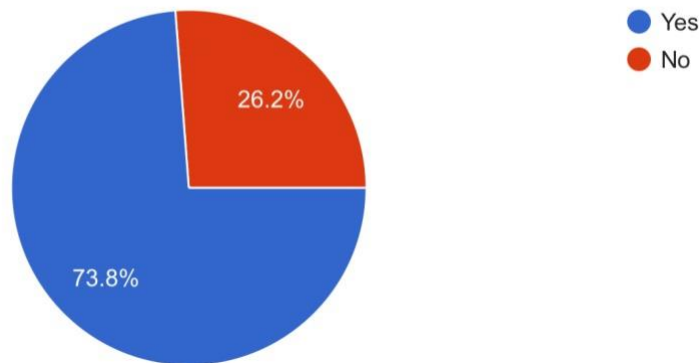
In your opinion, does the new Air Act set stricter limits on the amount of pollutants industries can release?

103 responses



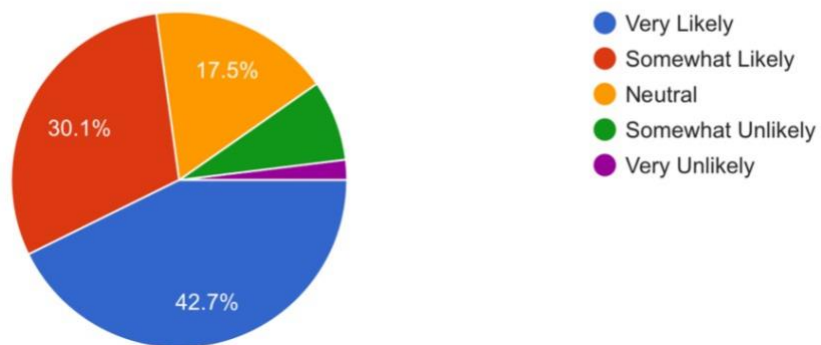
Do you feel citizens have a responsibility to take action against air pollution?

103 responses



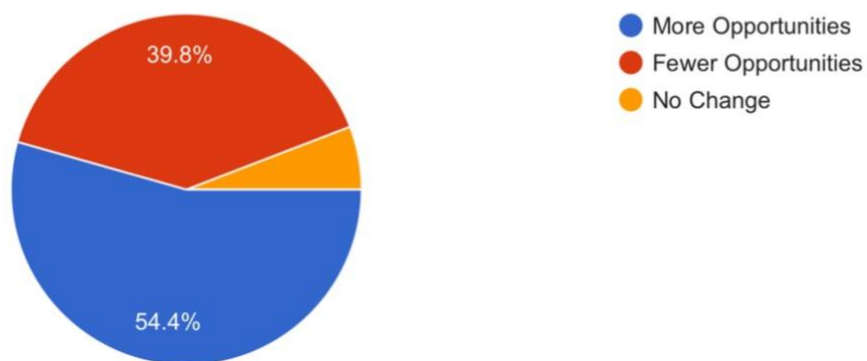
Considering both stricter standards and improved enforcement, how likely is the new Air Act (2021) to be more effective in reducing air pollution than the previous law?

103 responses



Compared to the previous law, does the new Air Act create more opportunities for citizens to report polluters or participate in air quality initiatives?

103 responses



Suggestions:

As everyone is aware, air pollution is a serious issue that needs to be resolved in order to improve the future. Therefore, I would offer some recommendations for improving the efficiency and preservation of air pollution in India, including the promotion and approval of more environmentally friendly automobiles there, the promotion of non-polluting substitutes, a greater focus on more environmentally friendly fuels, and a greater emphasis on the preservation of natural resources. and the law should be improved to be more inclusive and to concentrate on issues at the local level. The disparities in the primary sector ought to be covered by the legislation as well. It ought to concentrate more on the issues surrounding soft burning.

Conclusion:

The aim of the recently enacted Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021 is to address the contemporary issue of air pollution. Since one of the most vital and necessary ingredients for human survival is air. As a result, the air we have access to needs to be safe and clean for us to use. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, also referred to as the Air Act, was created by the Indian parliament in 1981 in an effort to avoid and control the detrimental impacts of air pollution on the country as a result of industrialization and modernization. And thus new Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 2021 will help us to reduce the novel air pollution problems which have arisen from the new age of technology. The new act would include the imposition

- Additional penalty
- Air pollution remediation fund
- Exception of a few non-polluting and green industries from the permit.

Website:

- <https://cpcb.nic.in/air-pollution/>
- <https://cpcb.nic.in/displaypdf.php?id=aG9tZS9haXIteG9sbHV0aW9uL05vLTE0LTE5ODEucGRm>
- https://www.hspcb.org.in/Air_faq
- [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_\(Prevention_and_Control_of_Pollution\)_Act,_1981](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Air_(Prevention_and_Control_of_Pollution)_Act,_1981)
- https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/1389/1/Prevwater1981_41.pdf
- https://loksabhadocs.nic.in/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/15072022_173626_102120463.pdf

Survey Form:

- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdpR2O_SZTmRzgxQNd6rgEPGvGvy26pkN92at1gk3m5t_d7A/viewform?usp=sf_link