About National Air Quality Index

1. Air Quality Index is a tool for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. It transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour.

2. There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts (known as health breakpoints). AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3, and Pb) for which short-term (upto 24-hours) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

3. Based on the measured ambient concentrations of a pollutant, sub-index is calculated, which is a linear function of concentration (e.g. the sub-index for $PM_{2.5}$ will be 51 at concentration 31 µg/m^3, 100 at concentration 60 µg/m^3, and 75 at concentration of 45 µg/m^3). The worst sub-index determines the overall AQI. AQI categories and health breakpoints for the eight pollutants are as follow:

AQI Category	AQI	Concentration range*							
		PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	NO_2	O_3	CO	SO_2	NH_3	Pb
Good	0 - 50	0 - 50	0 - 30	0 - 40	0 - 50	0 - 1.0	0 - 40	0 - 200	0 - 0.5
Satisfactory	51 - 100	51 - 100	31 - 60	41 - 80	51 - 100	1.1 - 2.0	41 - 80	201 - 400	0.5 - 1.0
Moderately polluted	101 - 200	101 - 250	61 - 90	81 - 180	101 - 168	2.1 - 10	81 - 380	401 - 800	1.1 - 2.0
Poor	201 - 300	251 - 350	91 - 120	181 - 280	169 - 208	10 - 17	381 - 800	801 - 1200	2.1 - 3.0
Very poor	301 – 400	351 - 430	121 - 250	281 - 400	209 - 748*	17 - 34	801 - 1600	1200 -1800	3.1 - 3.5
Severe	401 - 500	430 +	250+	400+	748+*	34+	1600+	1800+	3.5+

*** CO in mg/m^3 and other pollutants in µg/m^3; 2h-hourly average values for PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, NH_3, and Pb, and 8-hourly values for CO and O_3.**