Supplementary Table S1: Air quality parameters before and during lockdown phase among four major metropolitan cities of India (Data source: CPCB, India)

A. Delhi

Parameters ($\mu g\ m^{-3}$)	Before lockdown	During lockdown	Difference	% Difference
$PM_{2.5}$	μ=151.8 s=56.32 n=10	μ=54.77 s=12.04 n=9	97.022	63.91
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
PM_{10}	μ=166 s=56.59 n=11	μ=71.91 s=25.39 n=11	94.09	56.68
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
NO_2	μ=60.6 s=14.78 n=10	μ=21.9 s=3.51 n=10	38.7	63.86
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
NH_3	μ=6.36 s=1.12 n=11	μ=5.2 s=1.62 n=10	1.16	18.24
	p-value:0.07 (Non-significant)			
SO_2	μ=13.18 s=4.17 n=11	μ=12 s=1.49 n=10	1.18	8.95
	p-value:0.41 (Non-significant)			
CO	μ=91.17 s=11.22 n=12	μ=61.33 s=16.44 n=15	29.84	32.73
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
Ozone	μ=30.08 s=20.10 n=12	μ=45.4 s=13.21 n=15	-15.32	-50.93
	p-value:0.02 (Significant)			

*μ=mean; s=standard deviation of sample; n=number of samples

B. Mumbai

Parameters ($\mu g\ m^{-3}$)	Before lockdown	During lockdown	Difference	% Difference
$PM_{2.5}$	μ=47.36 s=24.36 n=14	μ=31 s =3.91 n=12	16.36	34.54
	p-value:0.03 (Significant)			
PM_{10}	μ=80.93 s=34.72 n=14	μ=64.69 s =9.67 n=13	16.24	20.07

	p-value:0.12 (Non-significant)			
NO_2	µ=69.21 s= 41.42 n=14	µ=17.73 s = 9.09 n=15	51.48	74.38
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
NH_3	NA	NA	NA	NA
SO2	µ=22.14 s = 3.84 n=14	µ=29.33 s =1.72 n=15	-7.19	-32.48
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
CO	µ=80.21 s= 26.25 n=14	µ=48.07 s =3.81 n=15	32.14	40.07
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
Ozone	µ=36 s= 11.47 n=14	µ=19.86 s =15.42 n=14	16.14	44.83
	p-value:0.004 (Significant)			

*µ=mean; s=standard deviation of sample; n=number of samples

C. Kolkata

Parameters (µg m^{-3})	**Before lockdown**	**During lockdown**	**Difference**	**% Difference**
$PM_{2.5}$	µ=137.69 s=65.93 n=13	µ=63.87 s=16.03 n=8	73.815	53.61
	p-value:0.006 (Significant)			
PM_{10}	µ=109.46 s=37.78 n=13	µ=72 s=7.58 n=8	37.46	34.22
	p-value: 0.013 (Significant)			
NO_2	µ=28.15 s=11.55 n=13	µ=9.63 s=1.60 n=8	18.52	65.79
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
NH_3	µ=2.92 s=0.49 n=13	µ=2 s=0.001 n=8	0.92	31.51
	p-value:<0.001 (Significant)			
SO_2	µ=10.69 s=2.53 n=13	µ=8.25 s=1.49 n=8	2.44	22.83
	p-value: 0.02 (Significant)			
CO	µ=23.46 s=8.19 n=13	µ=16.78 s=3.42 n=9	6.68	28.47
	p-value: 0.03 (Significant)			

Ozone	μ=40.23 s=12.19 n=13	μ=42.78 s=13.36 n=9	2.55	6.33
	p-value: 0.65 (Non-significant)			

*μ=mean; s=standard deviation of sample; n=number of samples

D. Chennai

Parameters (μg m^{-3})	**Before lockdown**	**During lockdown**	**Difference**	**% Difference**
$PM_{2.5}$	μ=27 s=6.78 n=4	μ=29.38 s= 9.96 n=8	-2.38	-8.81
	p-value: 0.68 (Non-significant)			
PM_{10}	μ=43.25 s=8.54	NA	NA	NA
NO2	μ=10.23 s= 2.52 n=13	μ=7.23 s=3.47 n=13	3	29.33
	p-value: 0.02 (Significant)			
NH3	μ=15.56 s= 8.46 n=9	μ=13.67 s= 2.06 n=12	1.89	12.15
	p-value: 0.46 (Non-significant)			
SO2	μ=9.15 s=0.55 n=13	μ=8.69 s=0.48 n=13	0.46	5.03
	p-value: 0.03 (Significant)			
CO	μ=17.33 s=3.57 n=9	μ=21.5 s=1.51 n=10	-4.17	-24.06
	p-value: 0.004 (Significant)			
Ozone	μ=100.92 s=49.36 n=12	μ=119.85 s=18.12 n=13	-18.93	-18.76
	p-value: 0.21 (Significant)			

*μ=mean; s=standard deviation of sample; n=number of samples

Supplementary Table S2: Meteorological data before and during lockdown phase among four major metropolitan cities of India (Data source: Time and Date AS, Stavanger, Norway)

	Phase	Avg. temperature (^{0}C)	Humidity (%)	Wind speed (km hr^{-1})	Barometer (mbar)
Delhi	Before lockdown	μ=20.83 s=2.50 n=15	μ=69.93 s=11.09 n=15	μ=7.8 s=3.00 n=15	μ=1014.2 s=2.27 n=15
	During lockdown	μ=22.87 s=1.97 n=15	μ =62.33 s=12.86 n=15	μ =9.4 s=2.99 n=15	μ =1013.33 s=1.72 n=15
	p-value	0.02 Significant	0.09 Non-significant	0.15 Non-significant	0.16 Non-significant
Mumbai	Before lockdown	μ =28.2 s=2.11 n=15	μ =51.67 s=16.55 n=15	μ =8.67 s=1.88 n=15	μ =1013.13 s=1.46 n=15
	During lockdown	μ =29.67 s=0.84 n=15	μ =63.07 s=10.31 n=15	μ =7.2 s=1.74 n=15	μ =1011.53 s=1.30 n=15
	p-value	0.02 Significant	0.03 Significant	0.03 Significant	0.004 Significant
Kolkata	Before lockdown	μ =25.5 s=1.49 n=15	μ =68.53 s=15.91 n=15	μ =8.33 s=5.75 n=15	μ =1013.73 s=1.16 n=15
	During lockdown	μ=30.23 s=1.51 n=15	μ =60.27 s=11.40 n=15	μ =7.8 s=3.19 n=15	μ =1010.67 s=1.23 n=15
	p-value	<0.001 Significant	0.11 Non-significant	0.76 Non-significant	<0.001 Significant
Chennai	Before lockdown	μ=28.9 s=0.69 n=15	μ=70.67 s=2.74 n=15	μ=9.2 s=1.26 n=15	μ=1013.8 s=1.01 n=15
	During lockdown	μ=29.6 s=1.17 n=15	μ=69.67 s=2.32 n=15	μ=8.87 s=2.53 n=15	μ=1012.67 s=1.05 n=15
	p-value	0.056 Non-significant	0.29 Non-significant	0.65 Non-significant	0.006 Significant

*μ=mean; s=standard deviation of sample; n=number of samples