



Status of National Air Quality Index Portal as on 21st September 2015

There have been a lot of debates about Delhi being the most polluted city in India as well as in the world. Delhi and other cities in the country are highly polluted and there is a constant pressure on the Government from the environmentalist and general public to come up with methods to reduce air pollution in India. As well as 13 out of 20 most polluted cities according to WHO report lies in India, Indian Government started a flagship program of National Air quality

- 1. National Air Quality Index (NAQI) was launched on 6th April 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi¹ in 10 cities (Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, Lucknow, Varanasi, Faridabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad) and was planned to strengthen the network of monitoring systems in all 46 cities having population more than a million and 20 State Capitals. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) all of these cities will have 6-7 continuous monitoring stations with AQI display boards². AQ sub-index and health breakpoints are evolved for eight pollutants (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb) for which short-term (upto 24-hours) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed³
- As on 21st September 2015 count at NAQI website stands at 31 (Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations CAAQMS in 15 cities spread over nine states and union territories (as per data availability from http://182.74.164.179:9000/).
- 3. At Present the portal for AQI captures data from nine states which includes Bihar (one city & one monitoring station), Delhi (One city & 10 monitoring stations), Gujarat (one city & one monitoring station), Haryanan (one city & one monitoring station), Karnataka (one city & three monitoring stations), Maharashtra (four cities- Mumbai (one monitoring station), Pune (one monitoring station), Navi Mumbai (one monitoring station) and Chanderapur (one monitoring station)), Tamil Nadu (one city & three monitoring stations), Telangana (one city & two monitoring station) and Uttar Pradesh (four cities- Agra (one monitoring station), Kanpur (one monitoring station), Lucknow (three monitoring stations) and Varanasi (one monitoring station))⁴.

Status as on 21st September 2015:

Because the initial plan of the AQI program was to launch in 10 cities and then expand to other areas and cities, this is been happening because now the platform for National air Quality Index data has 15 cities in nine states or UTs. Although it is very important to mention here that although the spread of the program has increased to five more areas (In Maharashtra and Bihar) and there are plans to expand it in other areas in near future but AQI program has not been implemented in the manner it was planned or targeted:

1. As per CPCB, ministry said that all such cities which are covered under AQI should have at-least 6-7 continuous monitoring stations with AQI display boards, but only Delhi has 10 continuous monitoring stations; Chennai, Bangalore and Lucknow have three stations each; Hyderabad has

¹ http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/pm-narendra-modi-launches-national-air-quality-index/61119/

² http://www.cpcbenvis.nic.in/envis_newsletter/ENVIS%20Newsletter%20Jan%20-%20Apr%202015.pdf

³ http://cpcb.nic.in/About_AQI.pdf

⁴ http://182.74.164.179:9000/

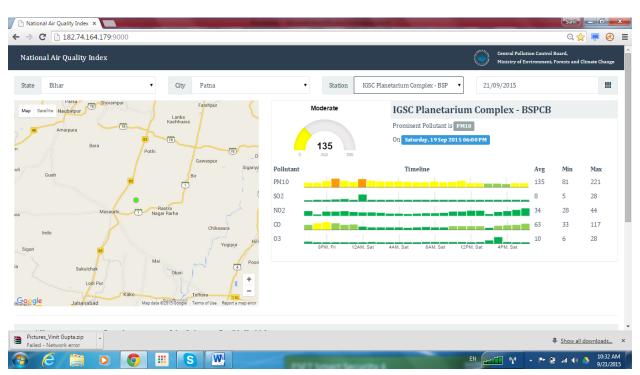




- two; and the 10 other cities covered by the NAQI have only one station each capable of making NAQI data available online.
- 2. Out of 10 CAAQM stations in Delhi only two were giving the updated real time data (for 21st September 2015) as on 10:30 AM, 21st September 2015, four station provided one days old data, one station provided two day old data, two stations provided approximately two months old data and one station provided data from 26th May 2015. So proper functioning and maintenance of the data quality and instruments is not been done.

Cities Covered under NAQI with number of Stations and parameters monitored for each City (As on 21st September 2015)

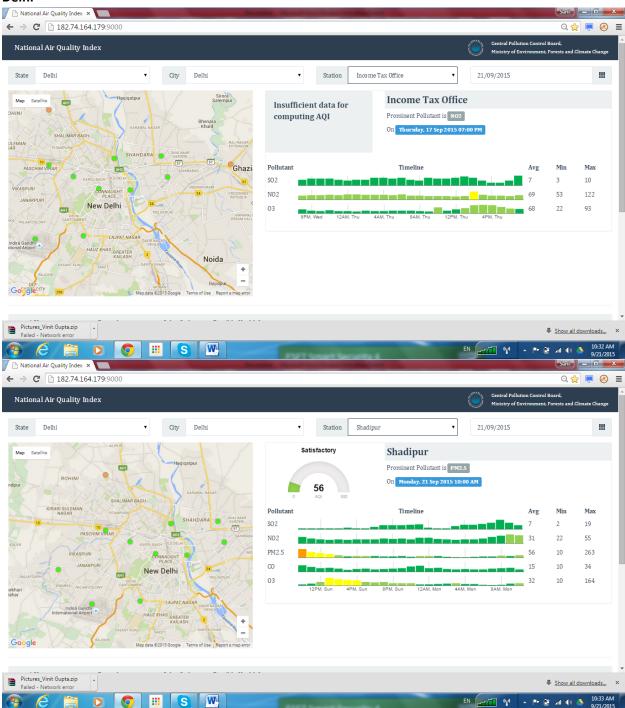
1. Patna, Bihar





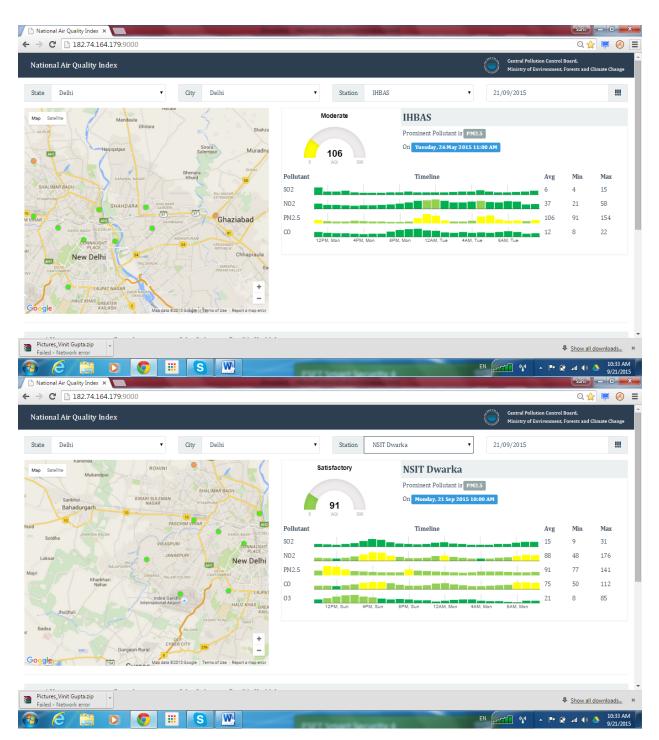


2. Delhi



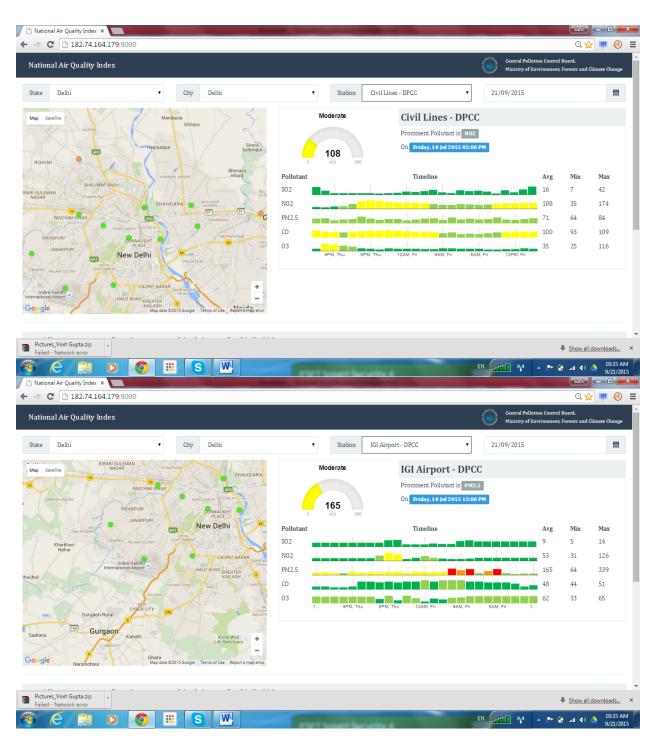






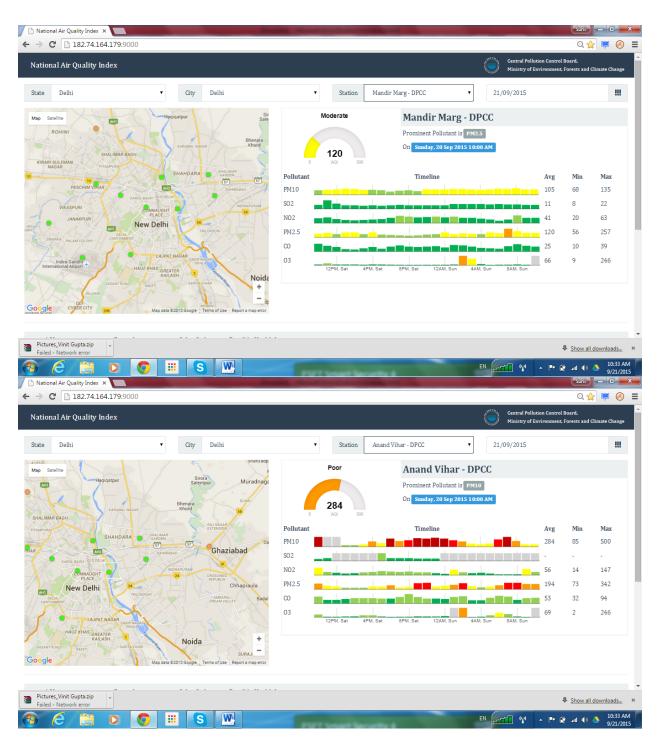






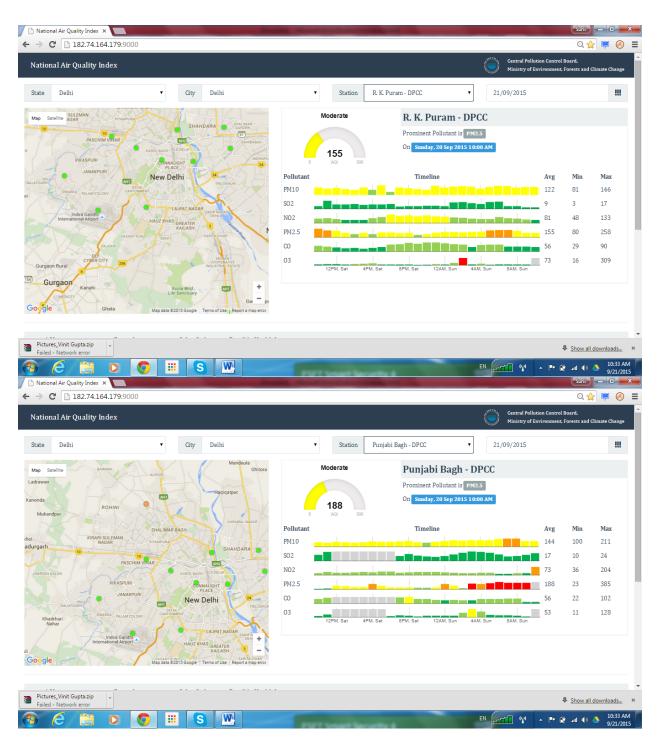








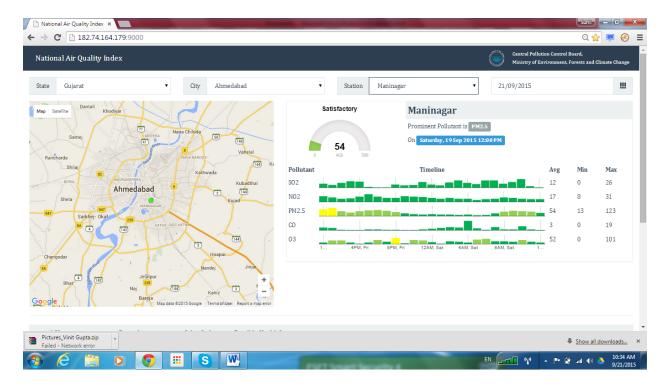








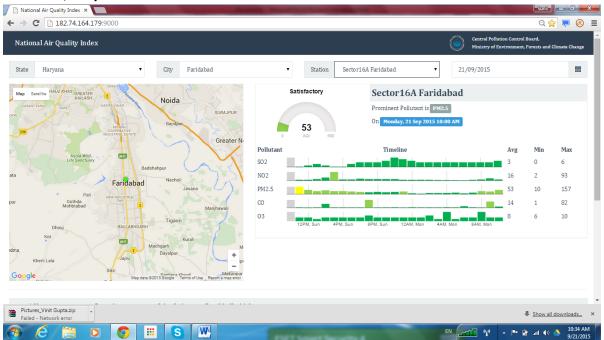
3. Ahmedabad







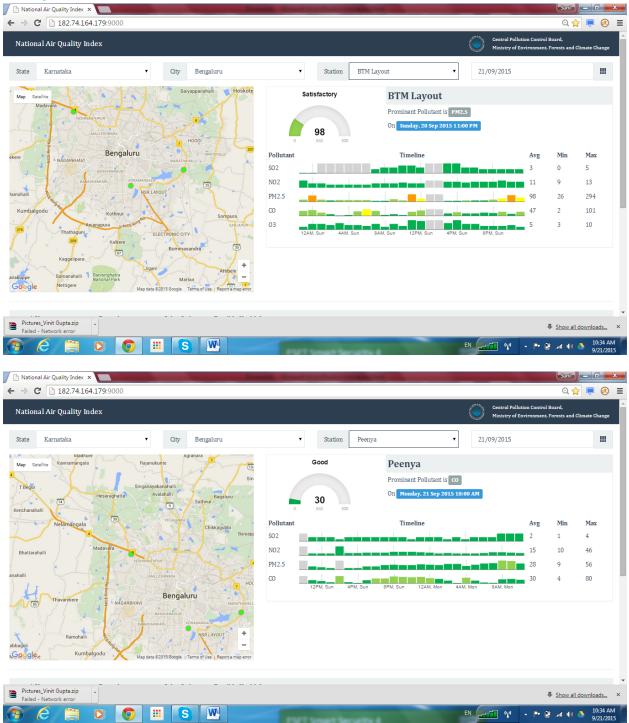
4. Faridabad, Haryana





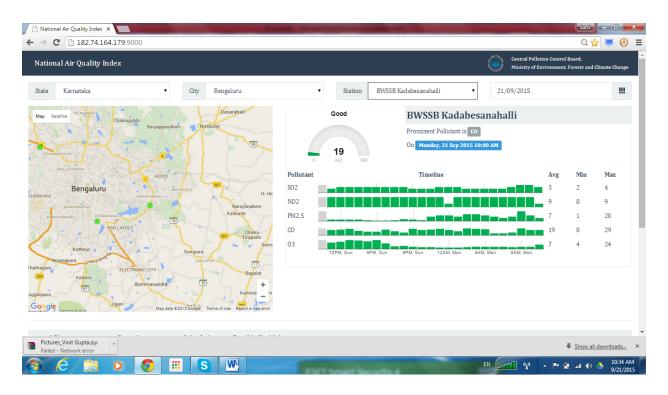


5. Bangalore, Karnataka





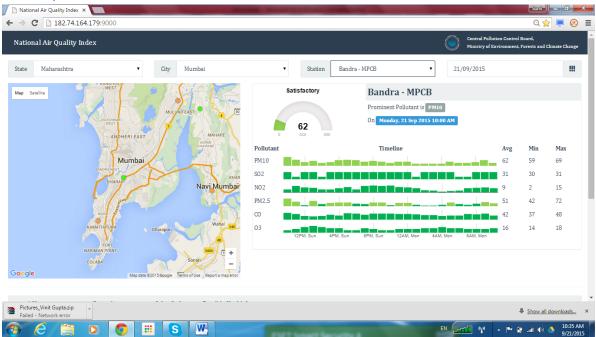








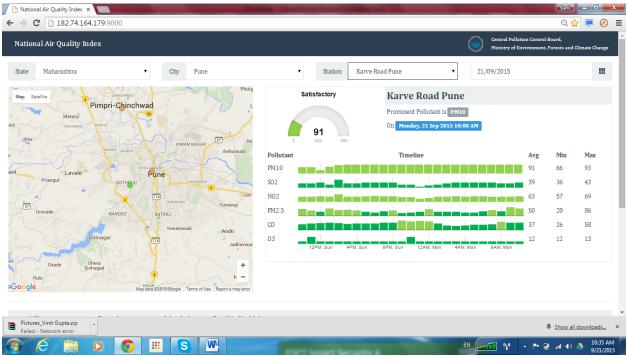
6. Mumbai, Maharashtra







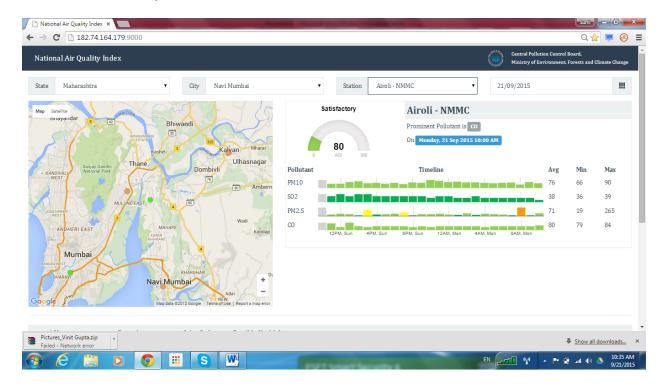
7. Pune, Maharashtra







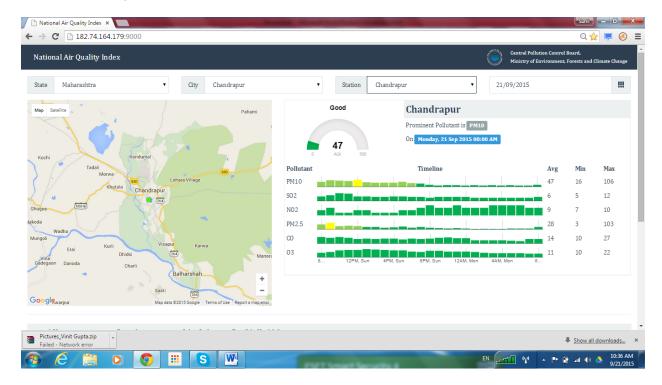
8. Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra







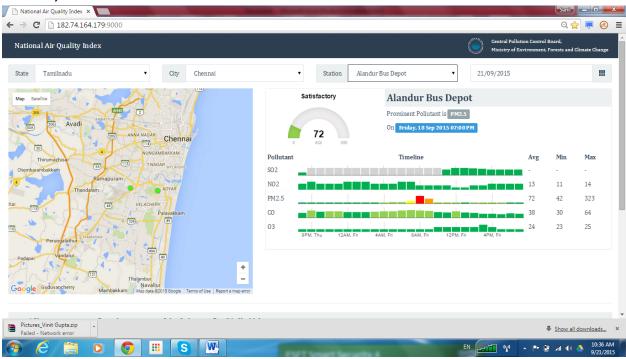
9. Chanderpur, Maharashtra

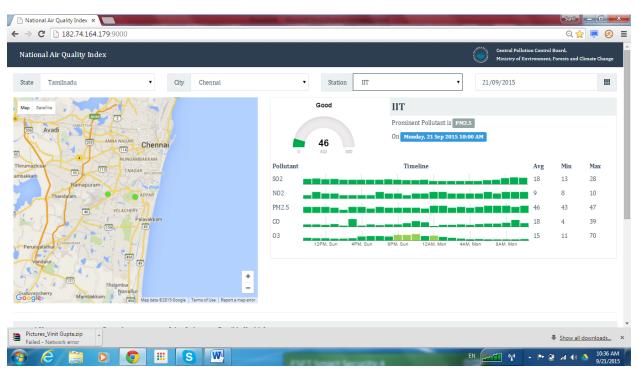






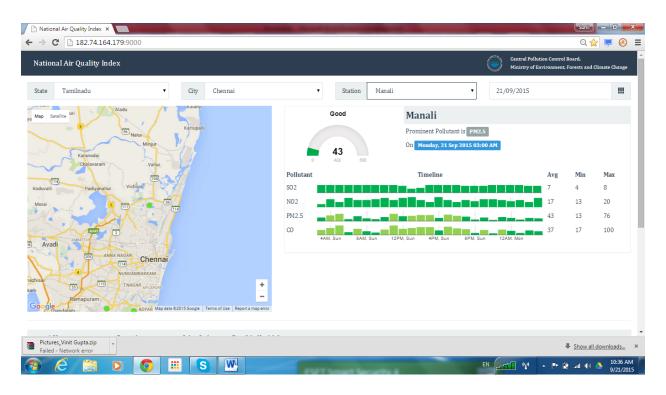
10. Chennai, Tamil Nadu







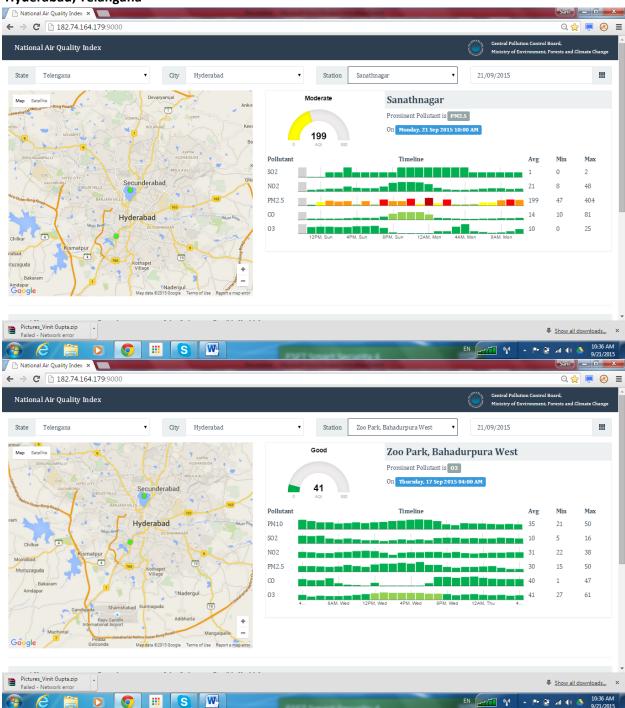








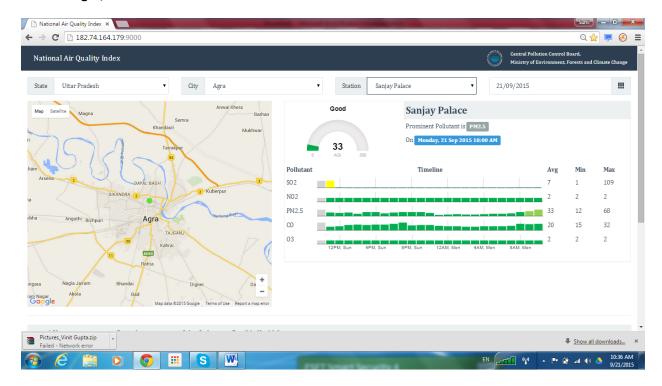
11. Hyderabad, Telangana







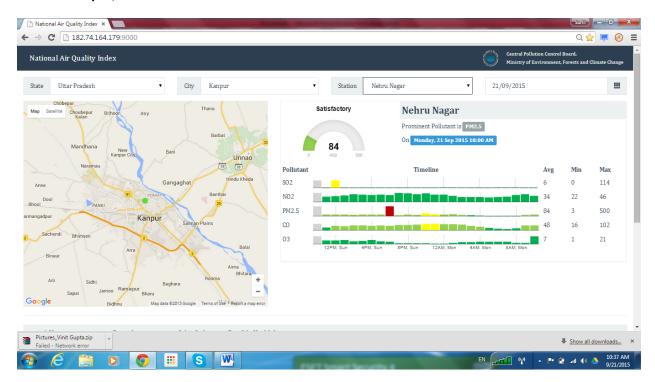
12. Agra, Uttar Pradesh







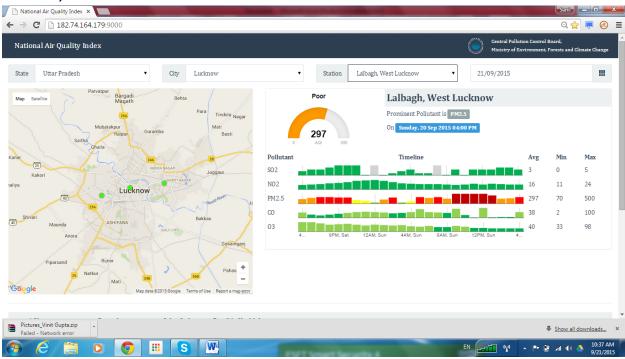
13. Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

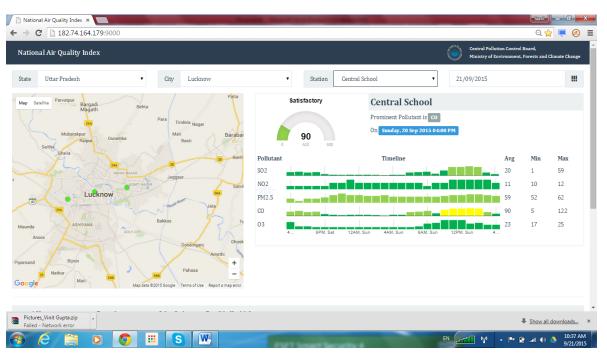






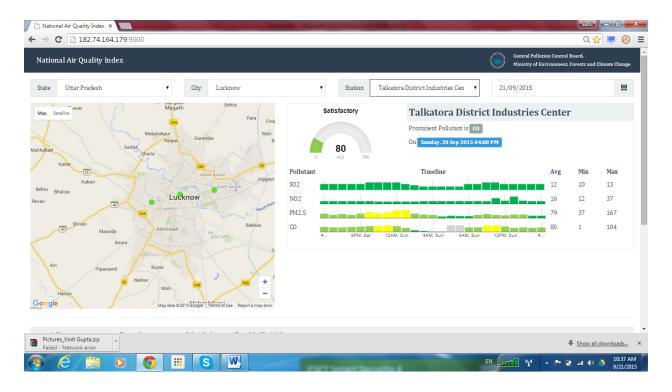
14. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh















15. Varansi, Uttar Pradesh

