



## Traffic Index 2018

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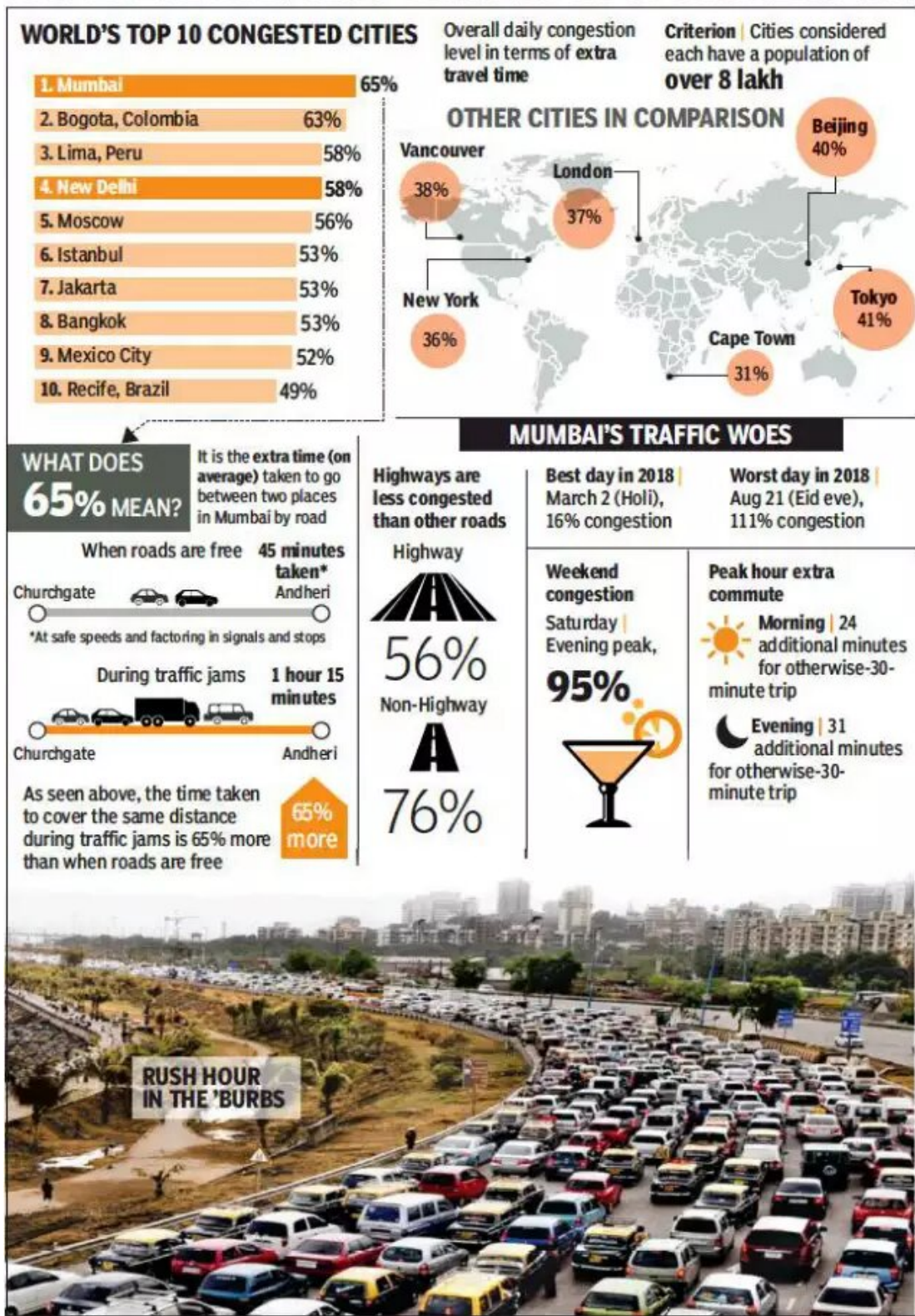
 [drishtias.com/printpdf/traffic-index-2018](https://drishtias.com/printpdf/traffic-index-2018)

As per the GPS-based study on traffic congestion, **Mumbai** has been ranked as the **most traffic-congested city in the world** for the second consecutive year.

- Traffic Index 2018 is published by **TomTom**, an **Amsterdam** based company that offers traffic solutions, by using location technology to collect traffic information.

- The latest index ranks 403 cities across 56 countries, including 13 new cities.

## SAT EVENINGS, CITY SUFFERS 95% CONGESTION



- Bogota in Colombia and Lima in Peru were ranked second and third on the list respectively, while the Russian capital Moscow ranked fifth.
- Delhi** is the **fourth** most traffic congested city in the world.

- **Congestion** has been defined in terms of the **additional time taken** to reach a destination as opposed to when the road would have been clear of traffic.
- Mumbai's extra travel time is **65%** more than an average trip would take during uncongested conditions and **Delhi's** extra travel time is **58% more**.
- As per the study, nearly 75% of the cities part of the 2018 index had increased or stable congestion levels between 2017 and 2018, with only 90 cities showing measurable decreases.

## Effects of Traffic Congestion

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- **Environmental concerns** like Increasing air and noise pollution.
  - In 2016, a World Health Organisation (WHO) study found that fourteen of the twenty world's most polluted cities belonged to India.
- **Road accidents:** India experiences 120,000 deaths per year due to traffic fatalities, more than any other country.
  - Delhi has the highest accident rate in India and third-highest in the world.
- **Economic loss** is concerned with the monetary value of the time spent sitting in traffic.
  - Congestion in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Kolkata costs the economy Rs 1.47 lakh crore annually, according to a study conducted by a global consultancy firm.
  - Traffic congestion in Bangalore alone costs the city approximately 5% of its economic output.
- Blocked traffic also interferes with the passage of emergency vehicles etc.
- Traffic rules, red lights, lane driving are not followed which are both the causes and effects of traffic congestion.
- On a positive side, traffic congestion indicates a **strong global economy**.

## Way Forward

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- **Road expansions** and **overpass** construction projects must be taken up by the government.
- Improvement in **public transport** and additional schemes like the **Bus Rapid Transport (BRT)**. **The BRT** is implemented in some cities like Pune, and it can be very helpful if implemented correctly.
- Proper **road network planning** and **Traffic engineering and management**.
  - Strict and stringent measures (through fines and penalties) against traffic violators
- Provision of **commuter subsidies** for public transport, carpooling or **Ridesharing**.
  - In Delhi alone, 22,369 acres can be freed up by ridesharing.
  - There is a need for a shift from **car-centric policy** to a restriction imposed over the purchase of cars or four wheelers.
  - **Preferred parking locations** for employees who choose to carpool.

- A free shuttle service from nearby metro stations to all corporate offices can address the issue of **last mile connectivity**.
- A **commuter guidebook** for all employees containing comprehensive information about alternative transport options.