

World

## Air pollution linked to 135 million premature deaths

By Ag Afp | June 11, 2024



Traffic seen on a road on a foggy morning in this undated image. — Twitter/Rahat Dar

SINGAPORE: Pollution from man-made emissions and other sources like wildfires have been linked to around 135 million premature deaths worldwide between 1980 and 2020, a Singapore university said on Monday.

Weather phenomena like El Nino and the Indian Ocean Dipole worsened the effects of these pollutants by intensifying their concentration in the air, Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (NTU) said, unveiling the results of a study led by its researchers.

The tiny particles called particulate matter 2.5, or "PM 2.5", are harmful to human health when inhaled because they are small enough to enter the bloodstream.

They come from vehicle and industrial emissions as well as natural sources like fires and dust storms.

The fine particulate matter "was associated with approximately 135 million premature deaths globally" from 1980 to 2020, the university said in a statement on the study, published in the journal *Environment International*.

It found that people were dying younger than the average life expectancy from diseases or conditions that could have been treated or prevented, including stroke, heart and lung disease, and cancer.