

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

**EXECUTION APPLICATION NO.06/2025 (WZ) IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.174/2024(WZ)**

Dr.Kalyani Mandke ... Applicant

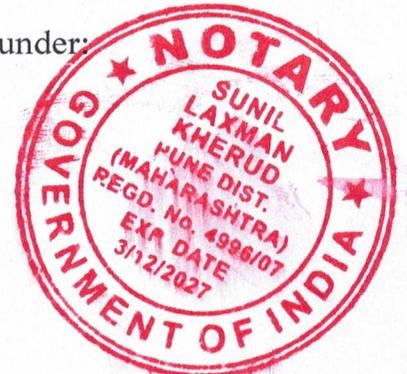
v/s

State of Maharashtra & Ors. ... Respondents

**Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.3-Maharashtra Pollution
Control Board**

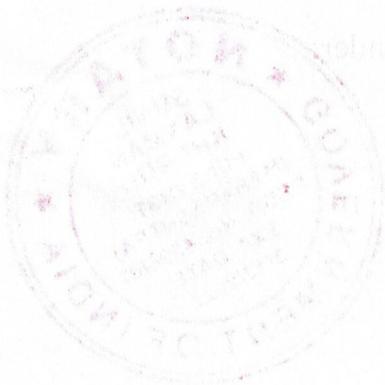
I, B. M. Kukade, Aged Adult, Occupation: Service, the Regional Officer of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board at Pune, having my office address at 3rd Floor, Jog Centre, Wakdewadi, Pune – 411003, do hereby state on solemn affirmation as under –

1. At the outset, I say and submit that the present Execution Application has been filed for ensuring the compliance of the directions contained in the judgement & Order dated 30/8/2024 passed by this Hon'ble NGT in Original Application No. 174/2024.
2. I am filing this affidavit in compliance of the Judgement & Order dated 30/8/2024 passed by this Hon'ble NGT and the steps taken by the Respondent Board as under:





- (i) With reference to sub-para (I) of para 27 of the Judgement and Order dtd.30/08/2024, the Respondent Board has carried out Real Time Monitoring at 200 key registered Ganpati Pandals across Pune from 7th September, 2024 to 17th September, 2024.
- (ii) With reference to sub-para (II) of para 27 of the Judgement and Order dated 30/08/2024, in order to create public awareness during visarjan processions, the Respondent Board has publicly displayed real time noise results at the respective Pandals and traffic junctions with a warning message “Noise Level More than Noise Limits as per the standards are injurious to health.”
- (iii) With reference to sub-para (III) of para 27 of the Judgement and Order dated 30/08/2024, Police Department has not submitted total Capacity of loud speakers (Say maximum 100 W) allowed in the case of each Ganesh Mandal based on location, considering nearness to school /hospital/residential complexes.
- (iv) With reference to sub-para (VIII) of para 27 of the Judgement and Order dated 30/08/2024, Respondent-Board has published the names of violators of the Noise





Rules, 2000 in the newspapers 'The Loksatta' and 'The Pune Mirror'.

- (v) With reference to sub-para (IX) of para 27 of the Judgement and Order dated 30/08/2024, Respondent-Board has conducted study during the year, 2024 Ganpati Festival in Pune city involved systematic noise level monitoring across 200 pandals and 15 traffic junctions revealing critical insights into urban noise pollution during large-scale public events. Measurements taken on September 8th indicated noise levels ranging from 66.7 dB to 94.0 dB on September 11th, levels fluctuated between 70.5 dB and 91.9 dB, and on September 13th, noise levels varied between 68.6 dB and 93.4 dB. However, the most significant elevation in noise occurred on September 17th, the key visarjan (immersion) day, when levels escalated to a maximum of 99.8 dB, with a minimum of 66.4 dB. This increase correlates with the extensive use of traditional instruments such as dhols, combined with loud music, which were prevalent during the processions. These figures highlight a clear pattern of noise amplification on visarjan days, underscoring the difficulties of maintaining noise levels within acceptable limits despite regulatory efforts. A copy of

the Real Time Ambient Noise Level Monitoring during Ganesh Festival -2024 Report attached as **Annexure-I.**

3. I say and submit that the directions issued in OA No. 174 of 2024 dated 30/08/2024 will be scrupulously followed by the respondent Board for the upcoming Ganesh Festival, 2025.

Solemnly affirmed on this 21st day of August, 2025 at Pune

For and on behalf of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Respondent No. 3


(B.M. Kukade)
Regional Officer-Pune



BEFORE ME


SUNIL LAXMAN KHERUD
NOTARY GOVT. OF INDIA
Regd. No. 4996/07
Noted & Registered No



SUNIL LAXMAN KHERUD
NOTARY-GOVT. OF INDIA
B13, MANIRATAN SOCIETY,
KARSHWAR, PUNE-411009

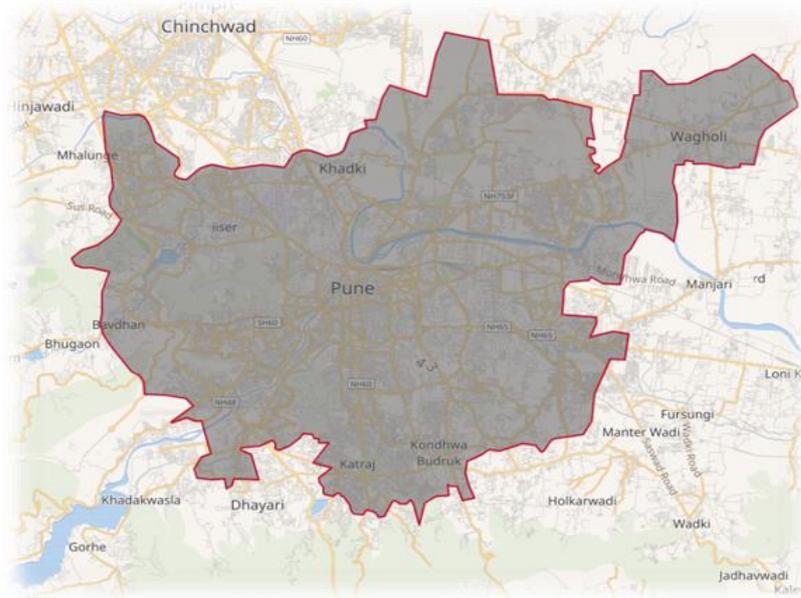
21 AUG 2025



REPORT

on

Real Time Ambient Noise Level Monitoring during Ganesh Festival – 2024 in Pune City along with the Display of Data with Warning Message



Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ

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FOREWORD

The Ganpati Festival in Pune is marked by vibrant celebrations, traditional music, and large processions, which lead to a notable increase in noise levels, particularly during the idol immersion processions. The festival's noise levels often exceed permissible limits, raising environmental and health concerns due to prolonged exposure to high decibel levels.



To address these concerns, an order was passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) on 30.08.2024 in OA No. 174 of 2024 (WZ), filed by Dr. Kalyani Mandke vs. State of Maharashtra & Others. The order mandated comprehensive noise monitoring across Pune during the Ganesh Festival, specifically from September 7 to September 17, 2024. In response to the NGT's directive, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) appointed M/s Ashwamedh Engineers & Consultants to conduct the monitoring in association with the MPCB Regional Office, Pune.

This report outlines the findings of a systematic noise monitoring study conducted across 200 pandals and 15 traffic junctions, with a focus on the spatial distribution of noise levels during key dates of the festival, including September 8th, 11th, 13th, and 17th. The data consistently demonstrated that noise levels exceeded permissible thresholds, with a maximum recorded value of 99.8 dB on September 17th, coinciding with the primary visarjan day. Monitoring at traffic junctions also revealed elevated noise levels, with nighttime peaks reaching 94.9 dB at Jijamata Chowk. The study identified the most intense noise periods during processions, largely attributed to the use of traditional instruments and amplified music. The findings emphasize the opportunity for strengthened regulatory measures to effectively manage noise pollution during large festivals in Pune.

The field monitoring of this study was carried out by M/s Ashwamedh Engineers & Consultants, with valuable support from the Pune Regional Office of the Board. The entire process, including planning, coordination, and report preparation, was undertaken by the APC division of the Board. The contributions of Dr. V.M. Motghare and Shri. Prakash Jadhav in this endeavor is greatly appreciated.

September 2024




(Dr. Avinash Dhakne, I.A.S)

ACRONYMS AND TERMS

CPCB	Central Pollution Control Board
dB	Decibel
dB(A)	Decibels with “A” weighting
EPA	Environmental Protection Act, 1986
NGT	National Green Tribunal
Hz	Hertz
KHz	Kilo Hertz
L_{Aeq}	Equivalent continuous A-weighted sound pressure level (dB)
L_{max}	Maximum sound pressure level (dB)
L_{min}	Minimum sound pressure level (dB)
L_p	Sound Pressure Level
MPCB	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board
SPL	Sound Pressure Level

DEFINITIONS

A-Weighting

A-weighting" is the frequency weighting characteristic as specified in IEC 123 or IEC 179 and is intended to approximate the relative sensitivity of the normal human ear to different frequencies (pitches) of sound.

A-weighted Sound Pressure Level

The "A-weighted sound pressure level" is the sound pressure level modified by the application of the A-weighting. It is measured in dBA and denoted as dBA.

Decibel

The "decibel" is a dimensionless measure of sound level or sound pressure level; see sound pressure level. It is denoted as dB.

Equivalent Continuous Sound Level (Leq)

Equivalent continuous sound level, denoted as Leq, is defined as the steady sound pressure level that, over a given period of time, has the same total energy as the actual fluctuating noise.

Fast Response

"Fast response" is a dynamic characteristic setting of a sound level meter meeting the applicable specifications.

Sound

"Sound" is an oscillation in pressure, stress, particle displacement, or particle velocity, in a medium with internal forces (e.g. elastic, viscous), or the superposition of such propagated oscillations, which may cause an auditory sensation.

Sound Level Meter

A "Sound Level Meter" is an instrument that is sensitive to and calibrated for the measurement of sound.

Sound Pressure Level

The "Sound Pressure Level" is twenty times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the effective pressure (p) of a sound to the reference pressure (Pr) of 20 µPa. Thus, the sound pressure level in dB = 20 log₁₀ P/Pr.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of this study. Our sincere thanks to the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) and their dedicated staff for initiating this vital effort to address noise pollution during the Ganesh Festival. Their commitment to enforcing environmental regulations and promoting public health has been instrumental in guiding this research.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman, Shri Siddhesh Ramdas Kadam, for his exemplary leadership and vision in steering our initiatives. We deeply appreciate the efforts of the officers at the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), particularly Dr. Avinash Dhakane (IAS), Member Secretary, for his proactive approach, prompt actions, and unwavering support. Special recognition is also warranted for Dr. Motghare, Joint Director (APC), and Prakash Jadhav, Sub-Regional Officer (SRO).

We would like to acknowledge the dedicated team at MPCB Pune, including Shri Jaganatha Salunke, RO Pune, Shri Kartik Langote, SRO, and Shri Suryakant Shinde, Field Officers of the Pune Pollution Control Board. Furthermore, we are thankful to the Pune Municipal Corporation and the Pune Police Department for their invaluable collaboration, which was essential for the successful execution of our monitoring efforts.

A special acknowledgment goes to the faculty and staff of various schools and colleges who promptly allowed their students to participate in this study on such short notice. Lastly, we are deeply grateful to the dedicated workforce of volunteers who generously gave their time and effort during this joyful festival season. Their commitment to this noble cause and scientific inquiry has been instrumental in advancing our understanding of noise pollution during the Ganesh Festival.

Thank you all for your invaluable contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Noise pollution, particularly in urban centers like Pune, has become a growing concern for environmental and public health authorities. Festivals, while essential to the cultural fabric of the city, often lead to elevated noise levels that can cause both short-term disturbances and long-term health risks. In response to escalating complaints from citizens and environmental activists regarding noise pollution during public events, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has initiated measures to ensure stricter monitoring and enforcement of noise regulations.

The Ganesh Festival, one of the most celebrated festivals in Maharashtra, draws massive participation, with thousands of pandals erected throughout Pune City. These pandals host a variety of religious and cultural activities, including processions, music performances, and religious ceremonies. The festival is marked by worshipping the idol of Lord Ganesha in individual homes and community pandals, which are also known as marquees or fabricated structures. Celebrated annually on the birthday of Lord Ganesha, according to the Hindu calendar, the festival typically occurs during the monsoon season in August or September and lasts for 11 days. During this time, the idol is worshipped daily and ultimately bid adieu through ceremonial immersion in ponds, lakes, or the sea on different days—usually after 1.5 days, the 5th day, or the 11th day.

These immersion processions often feature small music bands or vehicles playing loud devotional songs, and community idols are accompanied by musical bands, loudspeakers, and DJs. This creates a vibrant atmosphere, with participants of all ages filling the streets, dancing and singing to the rhythms of drums and cymbals. However, the reality is that this festival generates significant noise pollution that affects the surrounding communities.

To address these concerns, an order was passed by the Hon'ble NGT on 30.08.2024 in OA No. 174 of 2024 (WZ), filed by Dr. Kalyani Mandke vs. State of Maharashtra & Others (**Annexure XI**), mandating comprehensive noise monitoring across Pune during the Ganesh Festival, specifically from September 7 to September 17, 2024. In response, the Joint Director (Air), Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, instructed the Regional Office (RO), Pune, to comply with the NGT's directive and also appointed an environmental consultant agency to accomplish the task (**Annexure XII**).

The monitoring was to be carried out at 200 key pandals in collaboration with the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Pune Police Department, and Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), focusing on the peak celebration hours from 6 PM to midnight each day.

1.2 Pune City Description

Pune is the second-largest city in Maharashtra and one of India's fastest-growing urban centers. Pune is situated at approximately 18° 32" north latitude and 73° 51" east longitude. The city's total area is 15.642 km². It is renowned for its educational institutions, industrial growth, and a rich historical and cultural heritage. With a population exceeding 7 million, Pune is a bustling city that balances modern urbanization with deep-rooted traditions.

The Ganesh Festival, one of the city's most important cultural events, is celebrated with enormous enthusiasm. Every year, thousands of pandals are set up across the city, hosting idol installations, rituals, and public gatherings. While the festival strengthens community ties and showcases the cultural spirit of the city, it also brings challenges, especially in terms of noise pollution.

1.3 About Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is defined as unwanted or harmful sound that disrupts the normal acoustic environment. It is one of the most pervasive environmental issues, particularly in urban areas. The World Health Organization (WHO) identifies noise levels above 65 decibels (dB) as potentially harmful to human health, with prolonged exposure to levels exceeding 85 dB posing a significant risk of hearing damage and other health issues.

In the context of festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, noise pollution arises from a variety of sources, including:

- Loudspeakers used for music and announcements.
- Musical instruments such as drums and cymbals played during processions.
- Firecrackers, which contribute to sudden spikes in noise levels.

Elevated noise levels have several detrimental environmental and health impacts. Prolonged exposure to loud sounds can result in permanent hearing damage, while excessive noise, particularly at night, disrupts sleep patterns, leading to insomnia and chronic fatigue. Constant noise also heightens stress,

anxiety, and irritability, contributing to mental health issues. Additionally, it is linked to cardiovascular problems such as hypertension and heart attacks. High noise levels interfere with communication, making it harder for individuals to focus and reducing overall workplace productivity.

1.4 Global Facts and Figures on Noise Pollution

Noise pollution is a global concern, particularly in densely populated cities. Some key global statistics related to noise pollution include:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 1.1 billion people worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to unsafe noise levels in both recreational and environmental settings. In the European Union, noise pollution affects approximately 100 million people, with 20% of the population regularly exposed to levels that pose a significant risk to health. A report by the European Environment Agency (EEA) revealed that urban areas with more than 55 dB(A) of noise are linked to an increase in health problems like heart disease, cognitive impairment, and stress-related illnesses. In India, major cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata experience average noise levels of 85-90 dB(A) during festivals and other public gatherings, far exceeding the safe limits prescribed by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

Many countries, including India, have implemented legal frameworks to regulate noise pollution. In India, the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 set permissible limits of 55 dB(A) for residential areas during the day and 45 dB(A) at night. However, enforcement during festivals remains a challenge due to the cultural significance of these events.

2 MEASURING SOUND LEVELS

Noise measurement is typically done using a sound level meter (SLM), which is a specialized device designed to quantify and assess the intensity of sound or noise. When conducting noise measurements, it's essential to follow established protocols to ensure accurate and representative results. Taking measurements from a tripod at a specific height and distance from the noise source is an important part of this process.

Stability: Tripods provide stability to the sound level meter, ensuring that it remains steady during measurements. This is crucial for obtaining accurate and reliable results, as any movement or vibration can introduce errors in the measurements.

Height of Measurement: It's common to take noise measurements at a height that corresponds to the average ear level of humans, which is typically about 1.2 to 1.5 meters (4 to 5 feet) above the ground. This height is chosen because it represents the typical position of a person's ears, making the measurements more relevant to human exposure.

Distance from the Source: When measuring noise, it's a good idea to set up your equipment about 10-13 feet away from the noisy thing you're checking. This distance is chosen because it helps us get a sense of how loud the noise is over an entire area, instead of just right next to the noisy thing itself. It's like stepping back from a speaker at a concert to get a better idea of how loud the music is in the whole room, rather than right next to the speaker where it's super loud.

Safety: When measuring noise levels at a close distance to a very loud source, the sound level meter could be damaged, and the person taking measurements could be at risk of hearing damage. Maintaining a safe distance ensures the equipment's longevity and the safety of the operator.

In some cases, such as industrial noise assessments, measurements may be taken at specific locations where people are likely to be exposed to noise. The measurements may be taken at ear level, closer to the source, or farther away depending on the specific circumstances and regulations governing noise exposure.

Ultimately, the choice of measurement height and distance from the source depends on the objectives of the measurement and the specific standards and guidelines being followed. Accurate and consistent measurements are essential

for assessing and mitigating the impact of noise on human health and the environment.

Noise is measured in decibels (dB): A decibel is the standard for the measurement of noise. The zero on a decibel scale is at the threshold of hearing, the lowest sound pressure that can be heard. According to D.B. Smith, 20 dB is whisper, 40 dB is quiet office, 60 dB is normal conversation and 80 dB is the level at which sound becomes physically painful.

Decibels (dBA): ‘A’ symbol indicates a measurement of a logarithmic scale. In each case, the actual measurement ‘a’ is compared to a fixed reference level ‘r’ and the “decibel” value is defined to be $10 \log_{10} (a/r)$. ‘A’ weighing filters out lower frequencies very severely. Fast responses closely match to the simulations of Human ear sensitivity.

Leq (Equivalent Continuous Sound Level): Leq is the preferred method to describe sound levels that vary over time, resulting in a single decibel value that takes into account the total sound energy over the period of time of interest.

Leq - equivalent continuous sound level: Sound levels often fluctuate over a wide range with time. For example, in the middle of the night, the level might go down as low as 30dB(A) with occasional passing vehicles of 70dB(A) or more. Later comes the dawn chorus followed by the general noises of the day before relative peace returns in the late evening.

Alternatively, it may be a festival location with different noise emissions (for eg, DJs, Dhols, music, firecrackers, etc.) throughout the day or week, with deliveries, intermittent compressors, and lots of varying noisy processes on top of the routine production noise levels. How do you measure these noise levels and come up with an overall value?

This is where the Leq or equivalent continuous Sound level or an average value of sound comes. When we say average, this is not a simple arithmetic average because we are measuring in decibels which are logarithmic values. So the sound level meter converts the dB values to sound pressure levels, adds them all up then divides by the number of samples and finally converts this equivalent level back to decibels - dBs.

Lmax: It is the highest *time-weighted* sound level measured by the meter during a given period of time (the maximum of the output of the time-weighted **sound level equation** above). The time constant used can be fast or slow

Lmin: It is the lowest *time-weighted* sound level measured by the meter over a given period of time (the minimum of the output of the time weighted **sound level equation** above). Just like for Lmax, the value is based on the time weighted sound level in dB. The time constant used can be fast or slow.

L10: It is a commonly used statistical measure in noise monitoring. It refers to the noise level that is exceeded for 10% of a given time period. For example, if you are measuring noise over a 1-hour period, the L10 value would be the noise level that is exceeded for 6 minutes (10% of 60 minutes).

L10 is often used as an indicator of higher noise levels, especially for short-term peak noise in environments like traffic, industrial areas, or during events such as festivals. It helps capture how frequently loud noises occur in a certain time frame, making it a useful metric in environmental noise assessments.

L90: L90 is the sound level that is exceeded for 90% of the measurement period. It represents the quieter portion of the sound environment, typically reflecting background noise levels.

Since L90 captures the noise level that is exceeded for most of the time (90%), it is often used as an indicator of the background or baseline noise in a specific area. For example, in a residential area, L90 would give a good indication of the constant hum of ambient noise, such as distant traffic or natural sounds like wind or birds. It is particularly useful for determining the baseline noise during periods of low activity. It is often used to assess the background noise, helping to identify changes or spikes in noise levels due to specific activities (like festivals or industrial operations).

L50: L50 is the sound level that is exceeded for 50% of the measurement period. This is the median noise level, meaning it divides the higher and lower noise levels equally.

L50 is useful for describing the typical or average noise environment, as it represents the sound level that is exceeded half the time. It gives an indication of the mid-range noise levels during a given period. For instance, in a busy urban area, L50 would capture the general level of noise, considering common environmental sounds like traffic, people, and construction. It provides a median level that gives an overall sense of the environment's typical noise levels, making it useful for understanding the general noise exposure in the area.

Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 (**Annexure VIII**), govern each type of noise pollution. Prior to this, noise pollution and its causes were addressed by the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981.

- On February 14, 2000, the Union Government passed the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 in an effort to reduce the increasing ambient noise level coming from diverse sources in public areas. According to the authority granted to it by the Environment (Protection) Act of 1986, this was done.
- As stated in Rule 5 of the Noise Rules 2000, the use of loudspeakers and public address systems is restricted.
- Rule 5 was altered in 2010 to forbid the use of sound-producing equipment. Before using this technology in any of these situations, written consent is necessary.
- The District Magistrate, Police Commissioner, and any other person not below the level of Deputy Superintendent of Police are designated as the Noise Rules, 2000's implementing authorities.
- The State Government has the power to permit the use of loudspeakers on or during any annual religious or cultural celebration with a maximum duration of fifteen days. The hours between 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. are not suitable for such recreation.

3 OBJECTIVES

- To measure and document real-time noise levels at 200 key registered Ganpati Pandals across Pune during the peak celebration hours (1800 hrs to 2400 hrs) from 07th September 2024 to 17th September 2024.
- To measure noise levels at major traffic junctions along the Ganpati Visarjan procession routes on 08th September, 11th September, 13th September, and 17th September, with 24-hour continuous monitoring.
- To assess compliance with the permissible noise level limits set by the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, as mandated by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 30th August 2024.
- To create public awareness by publicly display real-time noise level results at the respective pandals and traffic junctions with a warning message: "Noise Level more than Noise Limits as per the Standards are injurious to health."
- To identify noise pollution hotspots where noise levels exceeded permissible limits, providing insights into areas requiring stricter enforcement and monitoring.
- To assist local authorities, including the MPCB, Pune Police Department, and Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), in formulating strategies for better noise management during future public events.

4 METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the CPCB monitoring protocol (**Annexure VII**), we conducted an ambient noise monitoring study during the Ganesh Festival 2024 in Pune City. The methodology used for this study is outlined below:

4.1 Site Selection and its Procedure

The study was conducted at 200 Ganpati Pandals and 15 major traffic junctions across Pune City, focusing on the **spatial distribution of noise levels** throughout the festival. A detailed list of all the monitored 200 Pandals, along with their latitude and longitude coordinates, is attached as **Annexure III**, while the detailed list of all 15 traffic junctions is attached as **Annexure IV**. Additionally, two separate detailed Google Maps (one for the 200 Pandals and another for the 15 traffic junctions) on A3-sized sheets, highlighting all the study locations, are included with **Annexure III and IV**, respectively.

The Pandals were selected based on their location, crowd density, and historical significance, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the festival's noise impact. The major traffic junctions were chosen based on their proximity to Ganpati Visarjan procession routes, where significant traffic congestion and noise are expected. Intermittent monitoring was conducted on September 8th, 11th, 13th, and 17th, 2024, to capture variations in noise levels and their spatial distribution across the city during the festival.

To meet the objectives of the Hon'ble NGT order, we promptly focused on monitoring the main pandals, specifically those larger than 16x16 feet. A comprehensive list of 1,918 pandals in Pune city was compiled. Additionally, we consulted with the police department to cover their jurisdictional areas, which included five peramandals across different city regions. Based on both the municipal corporation and police department lists, we shortlisted 200 larger pandals that exceeded the 16x16 area requirement.

The next challenge involved physically visiting each of the shortlisted 200 pandals. We found that some were operational while others were not. For those that were not in operation, we consulted with the Regional Officer (RO) and Sub-Regional Officer (SRO) to identify and select nearby operational pandals as replacements.

Traffic junctions were selected based on crowd density during the visarjan days, specifically on the 8th, 11th, 13th, and 17th. We identified 10 major junctions throughout the city, with an additional five junctions identified in the

extended areas, including Baner, Aundh, University, Chatursunghi, and Malewadi.

The noise monitoring locations were identified in collaboration with the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), the Pune Police Department, and the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), ensuring that areas with high noise pollution risks were monitored effectively. These sites were strategically chosen to capture variations in noise levels at both festival-related sites (pandals) and traffic-heavy areas (junctions).

To cover the vast area of Pune city, volunteers—either undergraduate or postgraduate students from the science stream—were approached from various colleges. Soon, a dedicated squad of 300 volunteers was assembled, eager to contribute to this task. Before deployment, they underwent a two-day training program. This training, conducted through videos, verbal instructions, and practical sessions, covered the operation and procedure of using sound level meters, the importance of noise monitoring, and the potential side effects of noise pollution. In addition to the technical training, the program also served as an awareness camp, educating volunteers about the broader impact of noise pollution on health and the environment.

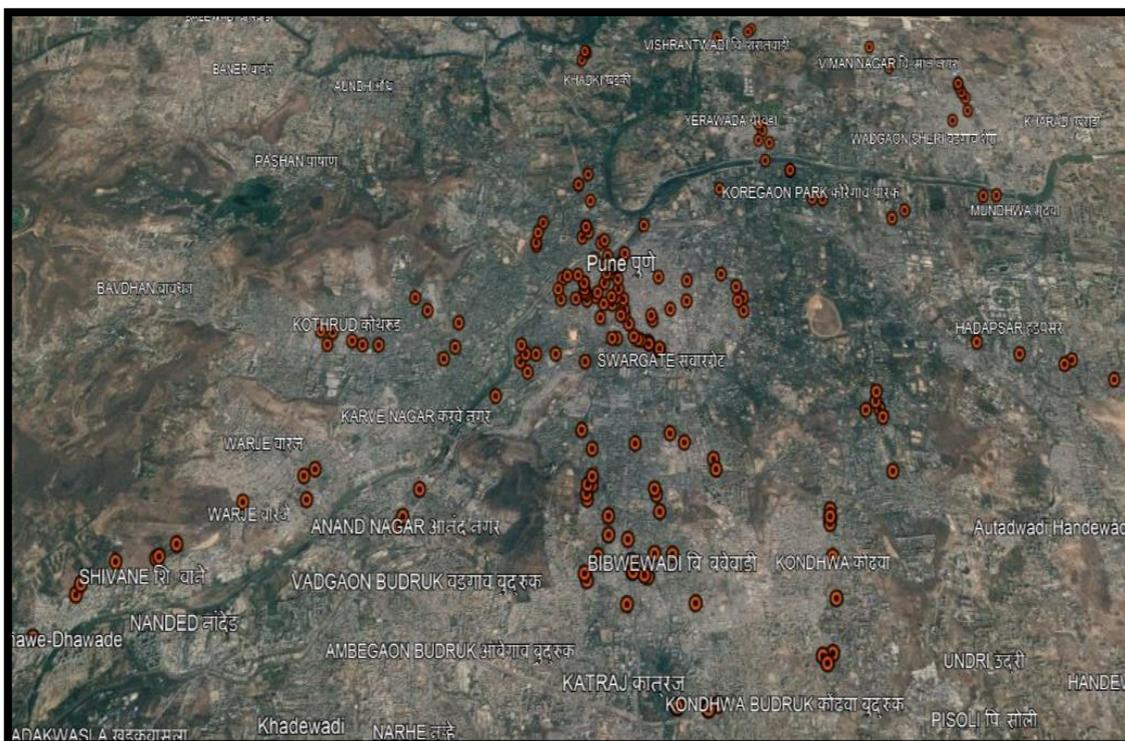


Figure 4.1: Pandals under Study (200 Noise Monitoring Locations) in Pune
(Source: Google Earth Pro)

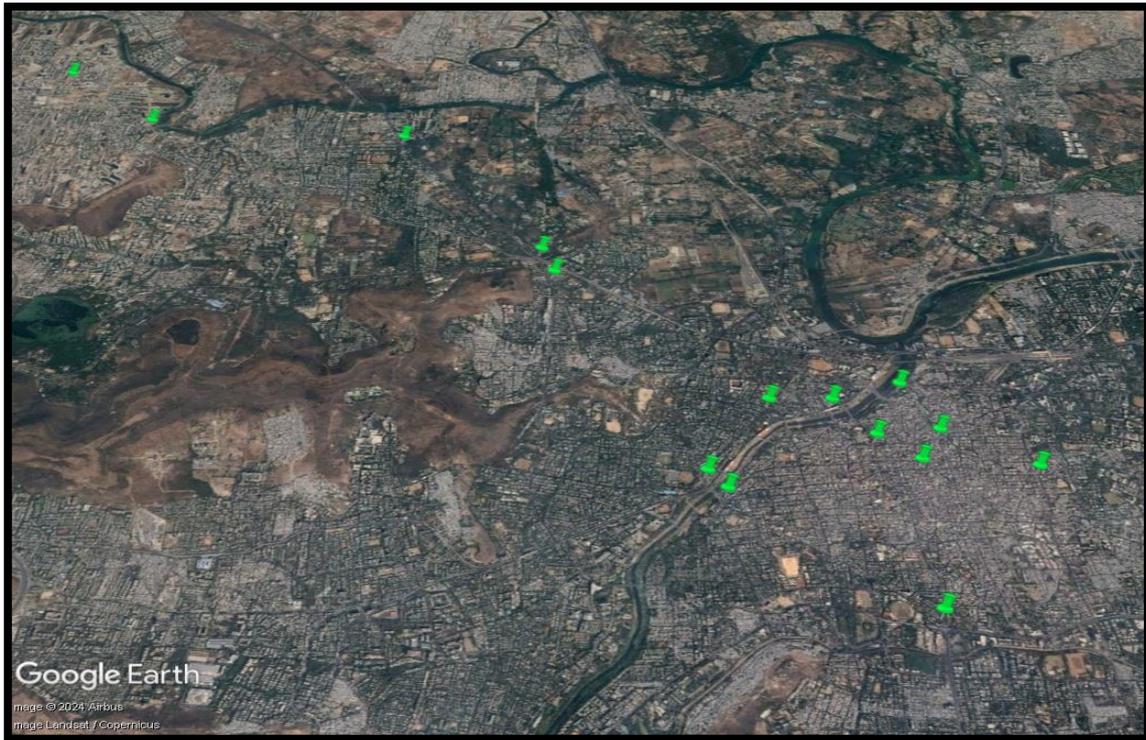


Figure 4.1: Traffic Junctions under Study (15 Noise Monitoring Locations) in Pune (Source: Google Earth Pro)

4.2 Equipment and Procedure

Sound Level Meters (SLMs) were installed at each monitoring site, with all equipment pre-calibrated for accuracy. A sample calibration certificate is attached as **Annexure VI**. Noise levels were recorded in dB(A), following the guidelines outlined in the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. The data was collected using calibrated Type-II SLMs (Specifications of the Noise meter is attached as **Annexure V**) positioned outside the pandals, where continuous music and large crowds of devotees were present. Measurements were taken instantaneously using the A-weighted FAST filter. Each SLM was mounted on a tripod at a height of 1.5 meters to ensure optimal readings, and a windball was used to minimize wind interference. Monitoring took place at all 200 pandals daily from 6 PM to midnight over an 11-day period, as well as at 15 major traffic junctions for continuous 24-hour monitoring on specified days.

- Hourly Leq and 6-hourly Leq data were recorded for the pandals in line with the MPCB's prescribed datasheet format (**Annexure X**). The results of the same are mentioned in **Annexure I**.
- At the major traffic junctions, day-time Leq (06:00 to 22:00 hrs) and night-time Leq (22:00 to 06:00 hrs) were calculated for each 24-hour monitoring

period, ensuring a comprehensive assessment of noise levels over time (**Annexure II**).

The datasheets (**Annexure X**) were used to systematically record and analyze the noise levels. These datasheets captured the following parameters:

- Hourly Leq (equivalent continuous sound level) for the 6-hourly monitoring at pandals.
- 6-hourly Leq data for cumulative noise levels during each day's monitoring at pandals.
- Day-time Leq and Night-time Leq for the 24-hour monitoring at traffic junctions, as required for assessing both day and nighttime noise levels.

The noise data collected was analyzed to determine compliance with the permissible noise levels set under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000. The findings from these analyses provide insights into the patterns of noise pollution during the Ganesh Festival and the specific noise impacts of traffic junctions during the Visarjan processions.

To create public awareness a poster was installed at each and every pandal and traffic junction with a warning message: "**Noise Level more than Noise Limits as per the Standards are injurious to health.**" (**Annexure IX**)

Data was logged at one-second intervals, with the SLM recording the sound pressure level (SPL) in decibels (dB).

From these recorded readings, the equivalent steady sound pressure level of a noise energy-averaged over time is calculated as Leq using the following equation:

$$L_{eq,T} = 10 \log \left(1/n \sum_{i=1}^n 10^{\frac{L_i}{10}} \right)$$

Where,

L_i = noise level in dB

n = number of observations at an equally spaced time interval

T = Time

The maximum (L_{max}), minimum (L_{min}), L₉₀, L₅₀ and L₁₀ SPL values were also calculated for the 24hr data of 15 traffic junctions (**Annexure II**). All the results are further compared with the last year's results also. All the results were compared with Standards of Noise Levels under EPA (1986): Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000 by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The detailed list of locations is given in **Annexure III and Annexure IV**.

5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the noise monitoring study conducted during the Ganpati festival from 7th September to 17th September 2024. The study was carried out at/near 200 Ganpati pandals continuously for 11 days of Ganpati festival. Simultaneously a 24hr noise monitoring study was conducted at 15 major traffic junctions, on the Visarjan days i.e. 8th, 11th, 13th, and 17th September. The monitoring was carried out from 1800 hours to 2400 hours daily, and the findings are compared with the 10dB above the CPCB standards as prescribed under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

According to the CPCB guidelines, the noise limits are:

Noise Rules 2000 - SCHEDULE [See rules 3(a) and 4(1)]					
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS OF NOISE					
Area Code	Category of Area / Zone	Limits in dB(A) Leq (As per Noise Rules 2000 Standards)			
		Day Time	Permissible Level in dB(A) at any time = Limit in dB(A) Leq + 10 dB(A)	Night Time	Permissible Level in dB(A) at any time = Limit in dB(A) Leq + 10 dB(A)
(A)	Industrial Area	75	85	70	80
(B)	Commercial Area	65	75	55	65
(C)	Residential Area	55	65	45	55
(D)	Silence Zone	50	60	40	50

Day time: 6 am to 10 pm. **Night time:** 10 pm to 6 am

Rule No. 4 and 5

[(4) The noise level at the boundary of the public place, where loudspeaker or public address system or any other noise source is being used shall not exceed 10 dB(A) above the ambient noise standards for the area or 75 dB(A) whichever is lower.

(5) The peripheral noise level of a privately owned sound system or a sound producing instrument shall not, at the boundary of the private place, exceed by more than 5 dB(A) the ambient noise standards specified for the area in which it is used.]

The study findings are as follows:

A. Noise Monitoring at 200 Ganpati pandals:

All the Ganpati pandals were located either in the Commercial or in the residential Zones. Noise monitoring in commercial and residential zones:

- The highest Leq was observed at Shree Kasaba Ganapati Sarvajanik Utsav Mandir on the first day (7 Sept) of monitoring, recording 103.2 dBA, exceeding the permissible limit for residential zones by over 35 dB(A).
- The lowest Leq during the 11-day period was observed at Yerandawane - Raaj Bag Tarun Mitra Mandal, Alakar on the fifth day (11 Sept), with 63.7 dBA.
- On **7-Sep-24**, the maximum noise level was 103.2 dB, and the minimum was 65.1 dB.
- On **8-Sep-24**, the levels ranged from a maximum of 94.0 dB to a minimum of 63.9 dB.
- On **9-Sep-24**, the maximum reached 95.1 dB, with a minimum of 66.7 dB.
- On **10-Sep-24**, the recorded noise ranged between 90.9 dB and 64.5 dB.
- On **11-Sep-24**, the maximum was 91.9 dB, and the minimum was 63.7 dB.
- On **12-Sep-24**, the noise ranged from 88.3 dB to 70.5 dB.
- On **13-Sep-24**, the maximum noise level was 93.4 dB, and the minimum was 66.5 dB.
- On **14-Sep-24**, levels ranged from a maximum of 88.0 dB to a minimum of 68.6 dB.
- On **15-Sep-24**, the noise ranged between 82.3 dB and 69.5 dB.
- While on **16-Sep-24**, the range was between 81.8 dB and 72.4 dB.
- Finally, on **17-Sep-24**, the maximum recorded noise was 99.8 dB, and the minimum was 66.4 dB.

B. Traffic Junction Monitoring:

During the Ganapati festival, monitoring was carried out at 15 major traffic junctions in Pune on Visarjan days (8th, 11th, 13th, and 17th September).

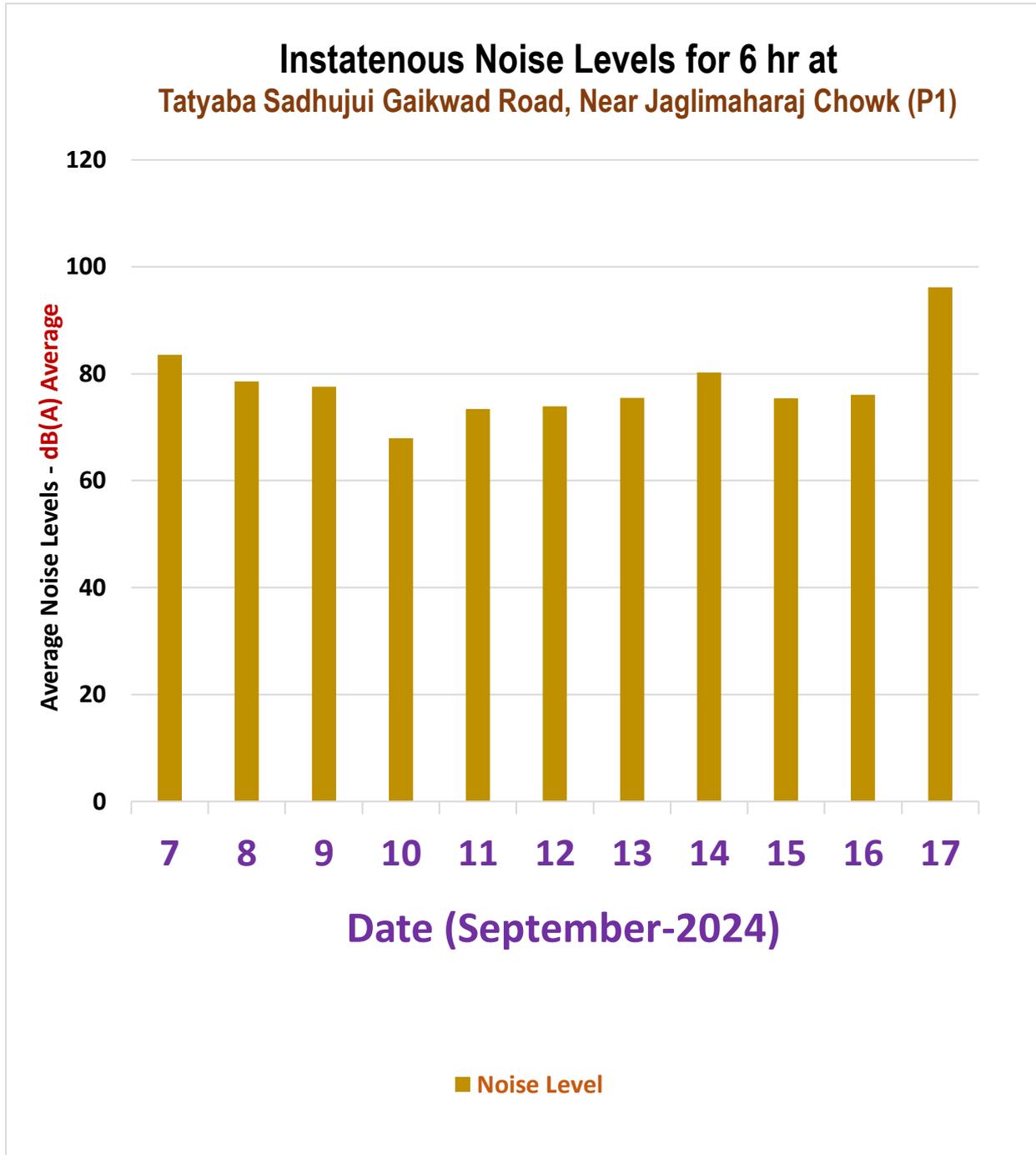
Out of the 15 junctions, the highest decibels were consistently recorded at across all four days of monitoring. The noise levels at this location reached critical levels due to high traffic, dhol processions, loudspeakers, and DJs contributing to excessive sound.

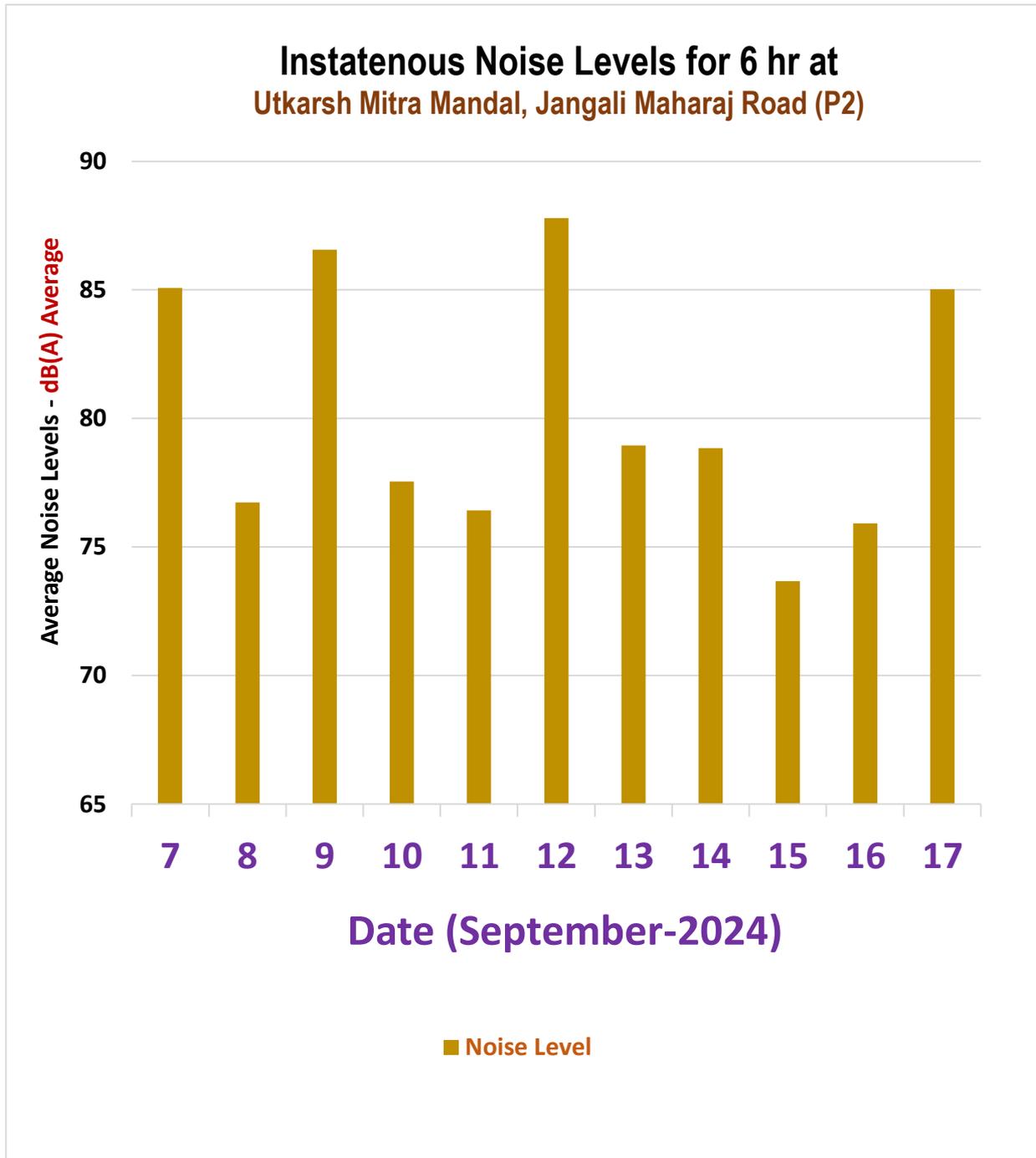
The highest recorded noise level at the junctions occurred on the last day of the Ganapati festival (17th September), when Visarjan processions were at their peak. Decibel levels reached over 100 dB(A), far exceeding the permissible limits

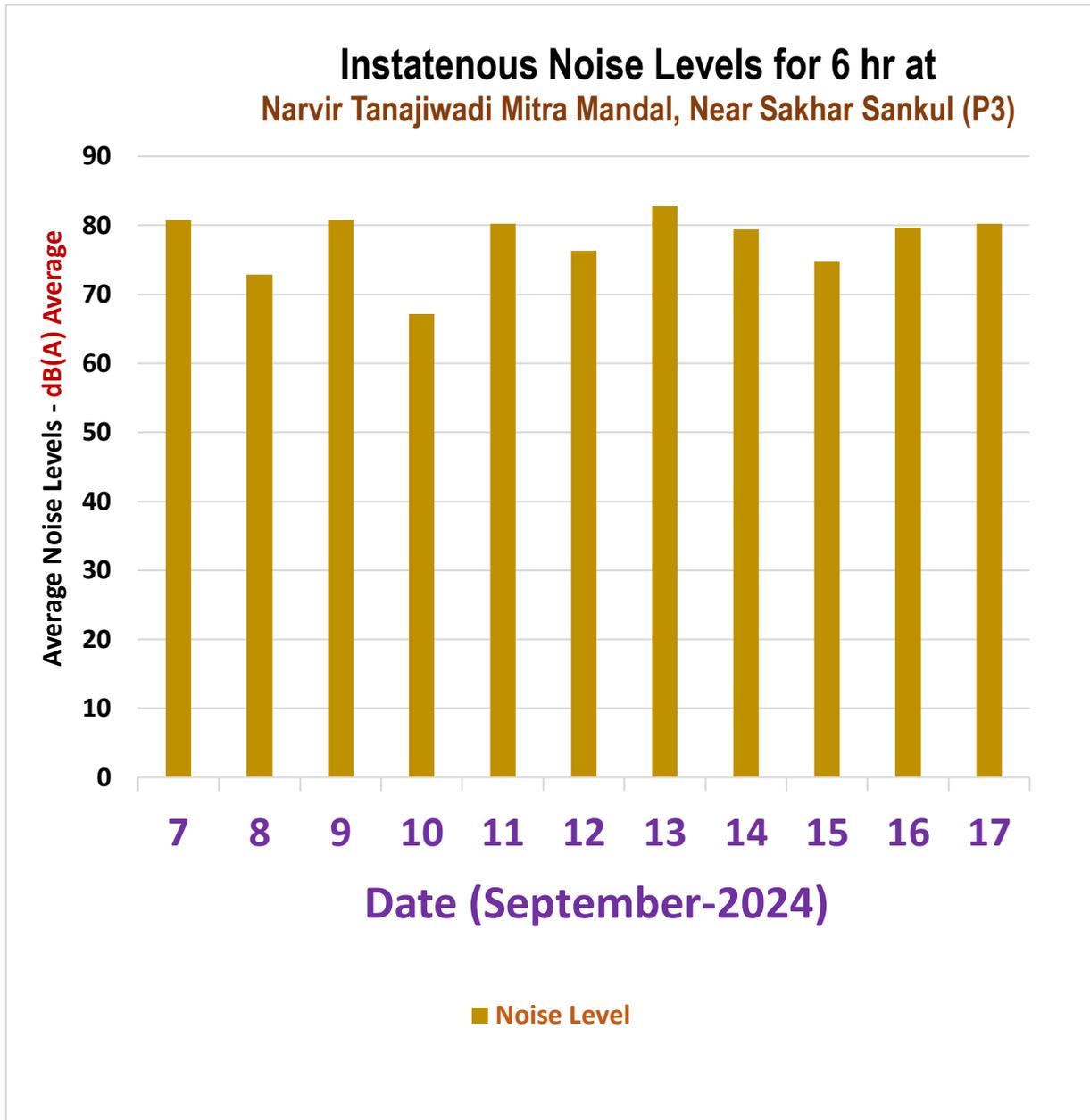
by over 30 to 40 dB(A), primarily due to dhols, music systems, and DJs being used during the final immersion processions.

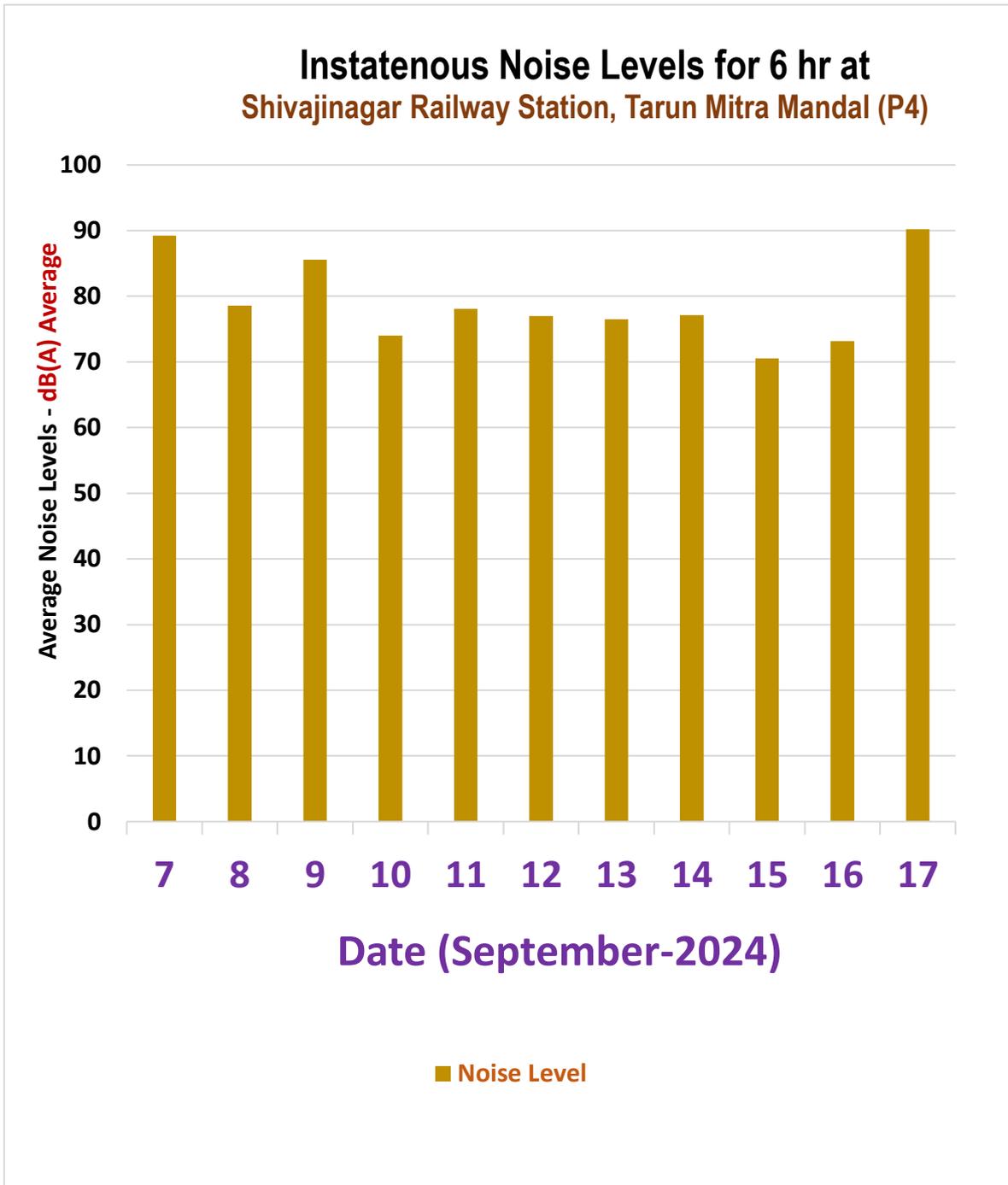
The 11th day of monitoring, Visarjan Day on 17th September 2024, recorded the highest decibel levels citywide, especially in commercial zones and traffic junctions. Procession routes leading to immersion points saw noise levels that exceeded the CPCB standards due to the cumulative impact of dhols, music systems, loudspeakers, and DJs.

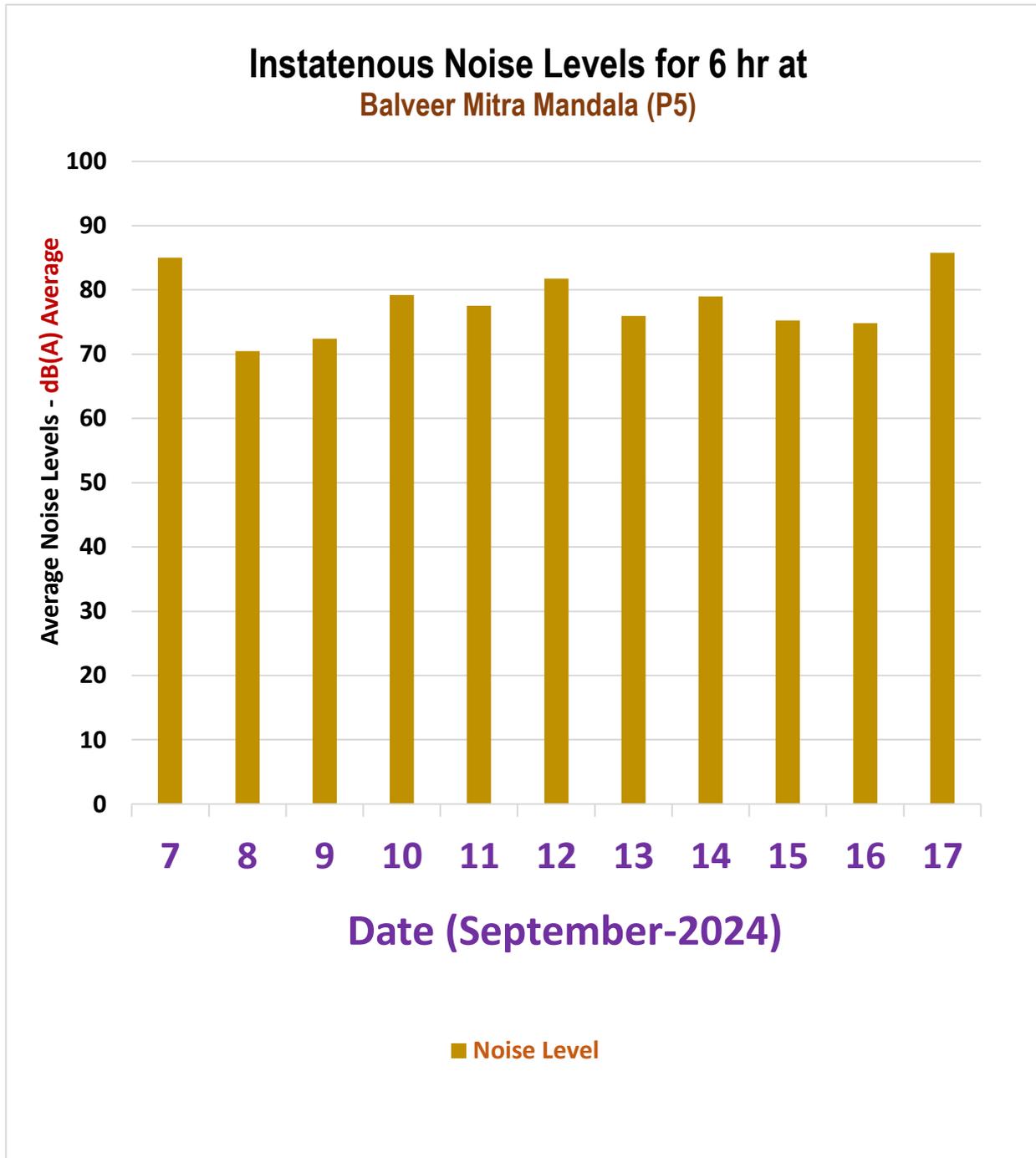
Below are the Graphical Representation of Daily Average (Leq) Ambient Noise level Recorded at 200 Ganpati Pandal Locations at Pune City

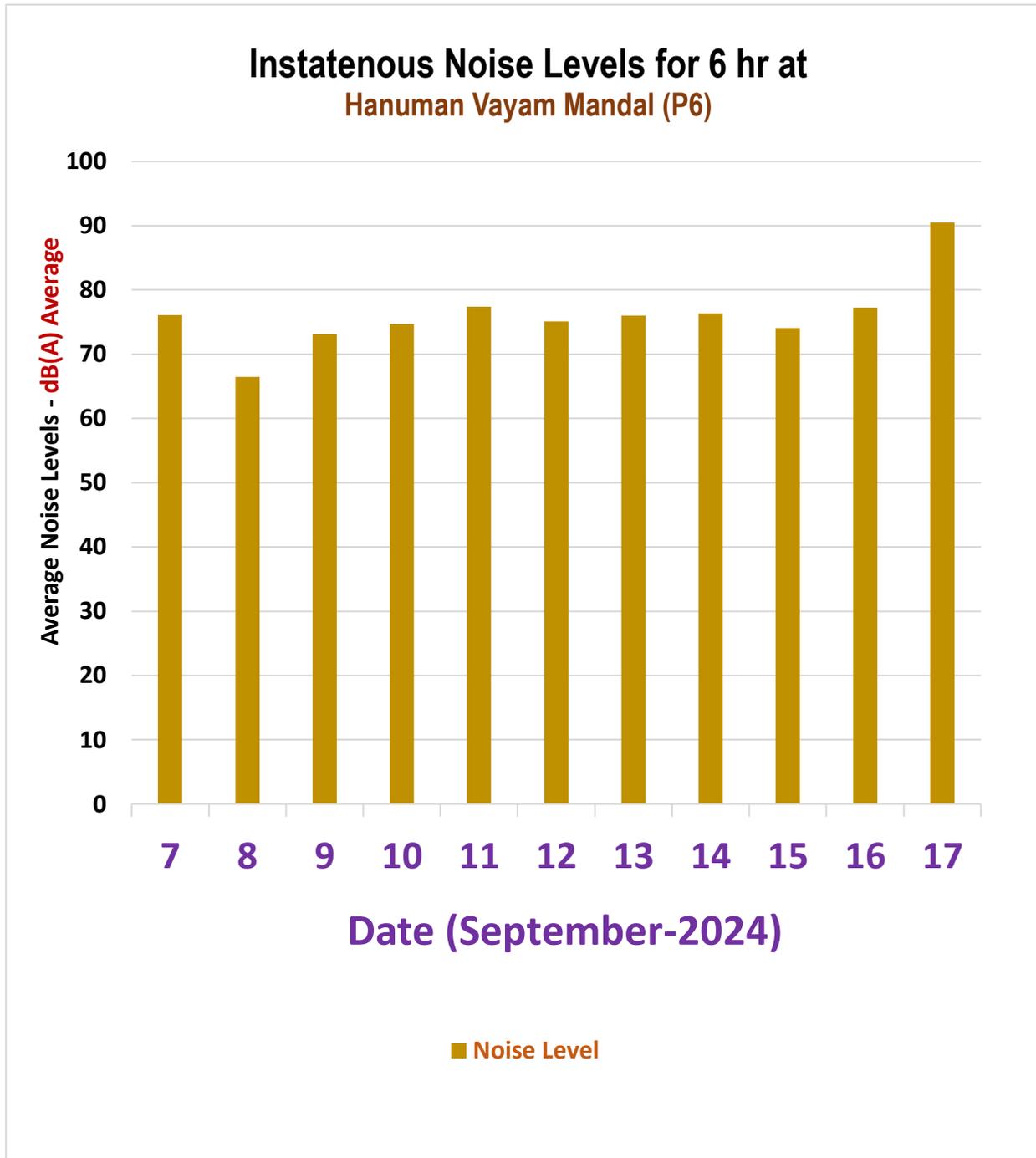


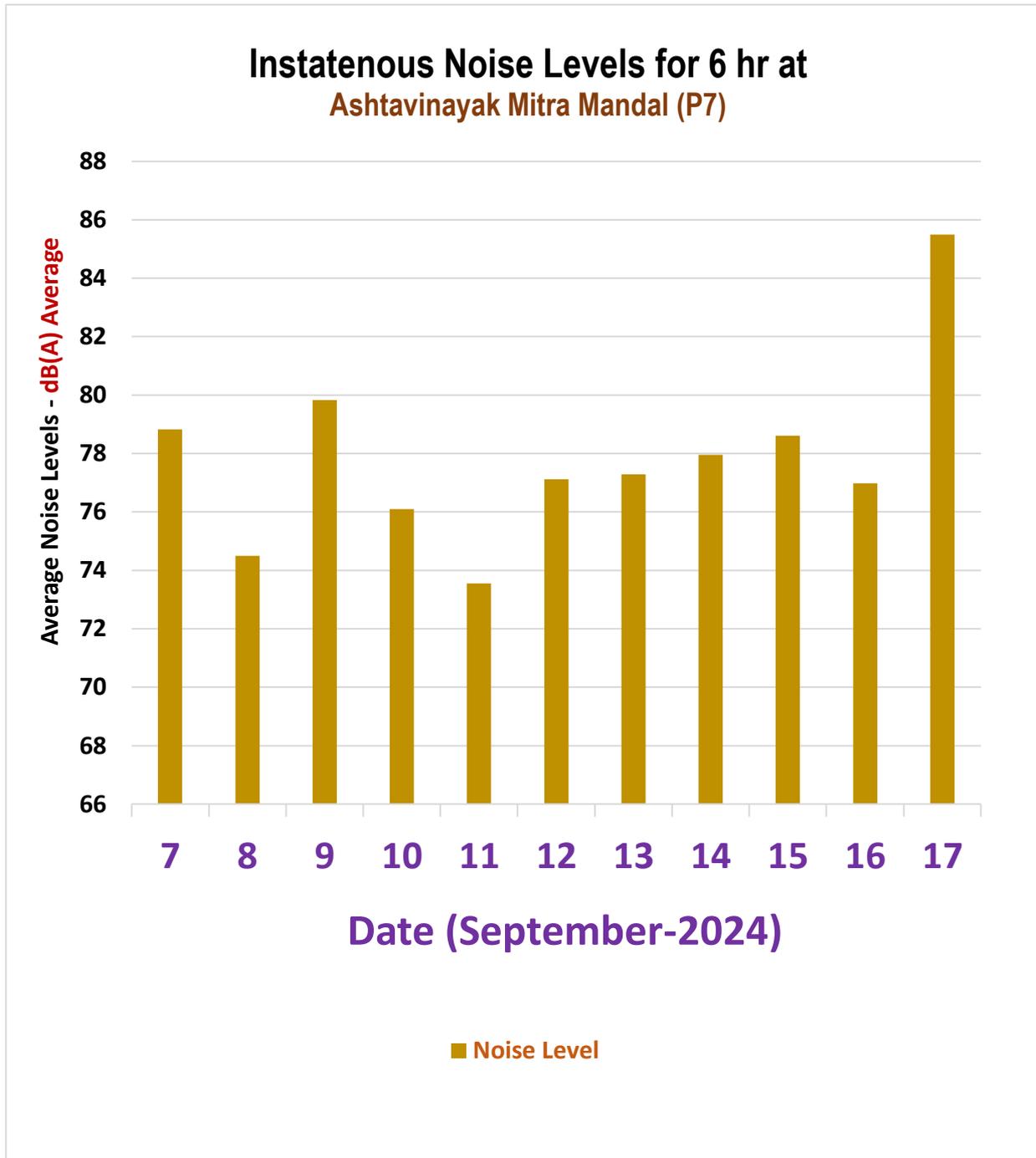


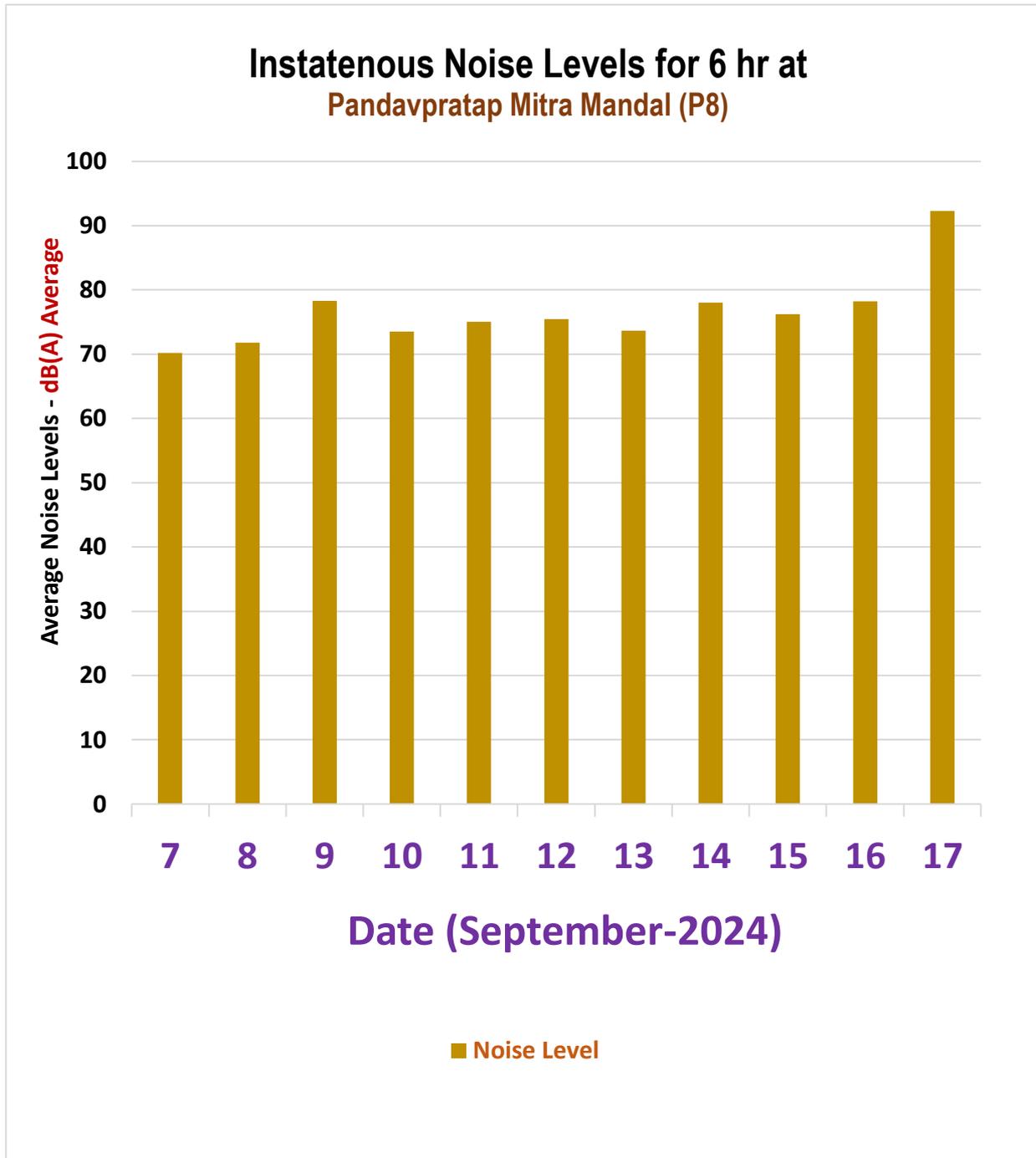


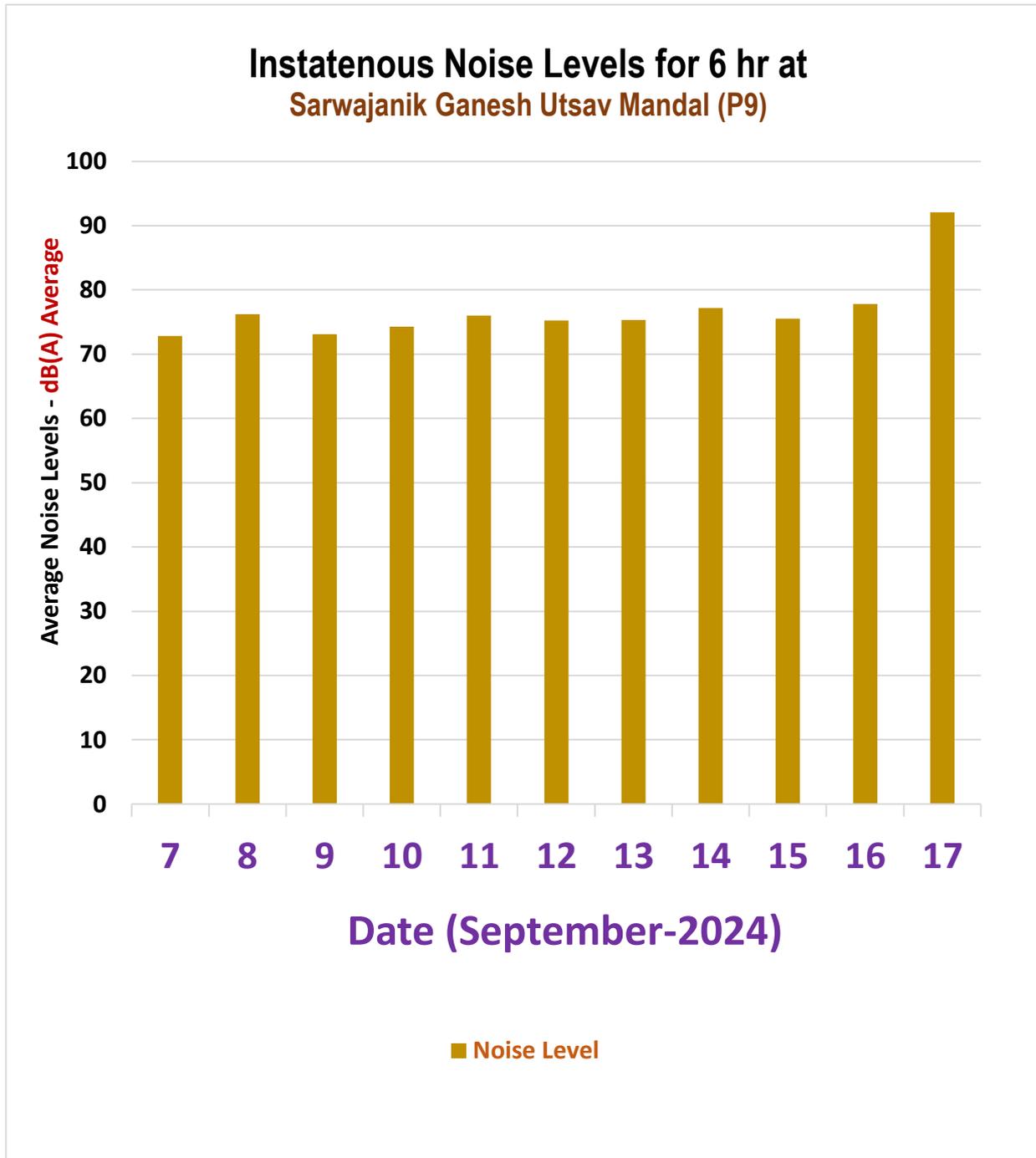


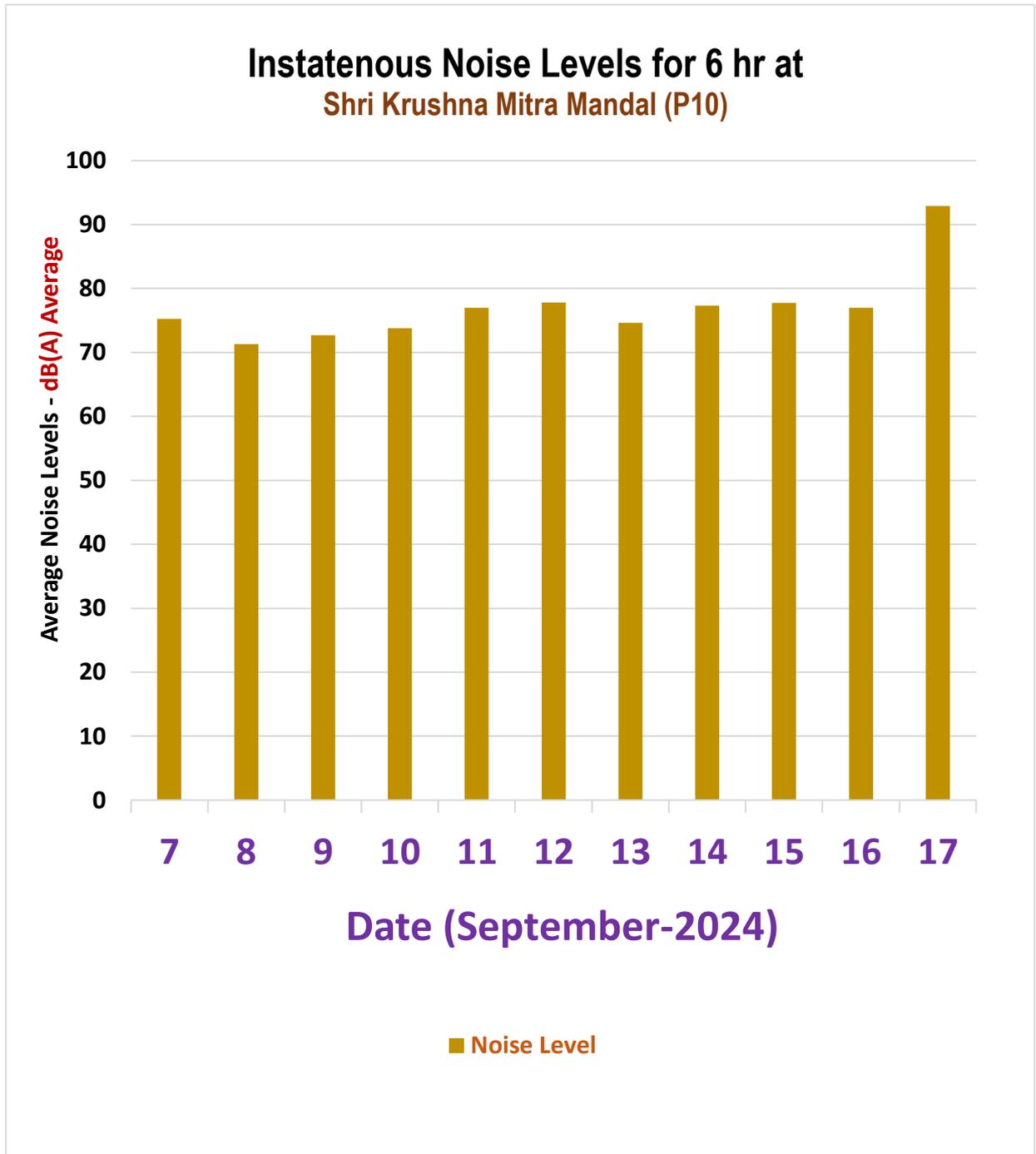


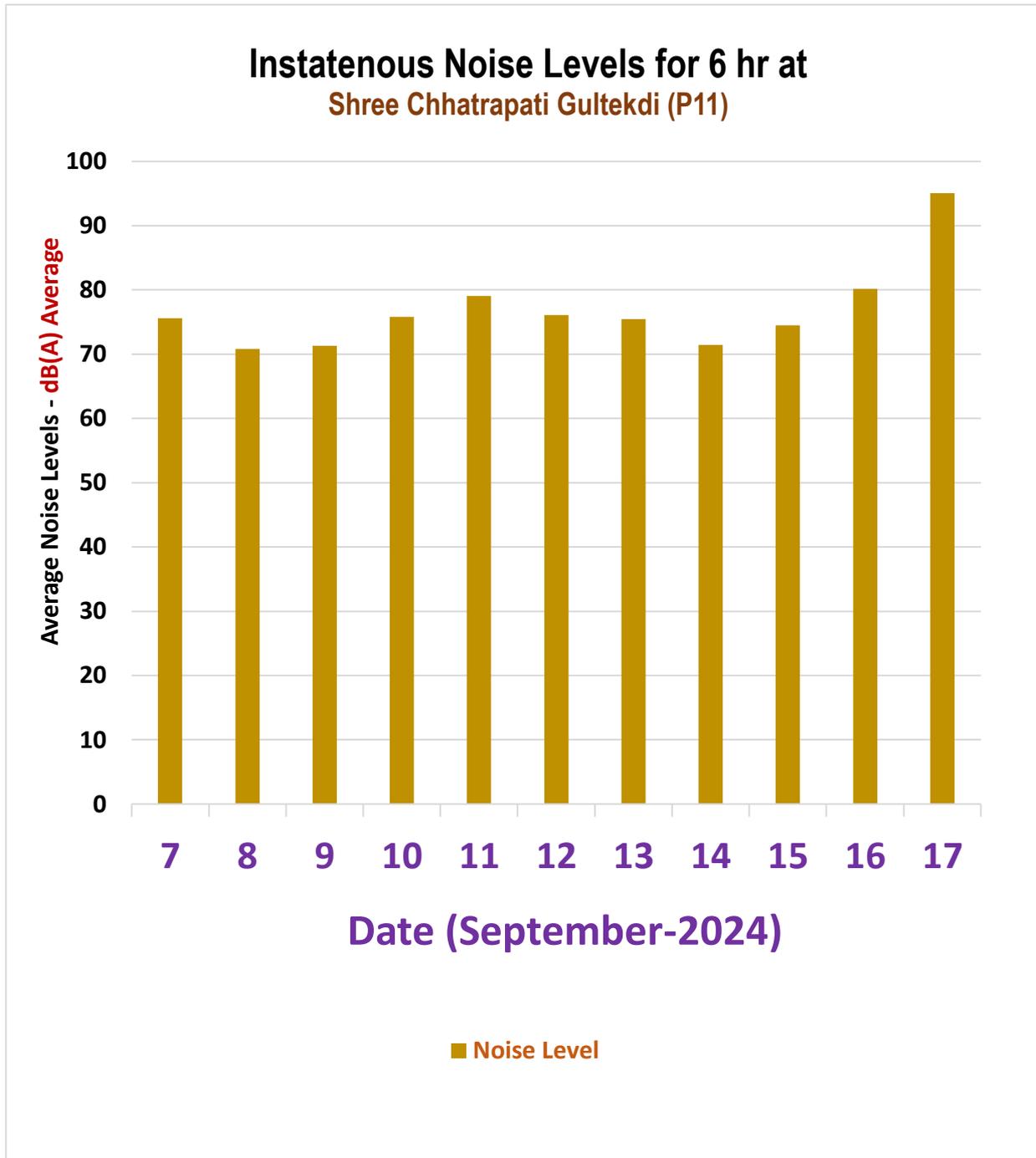


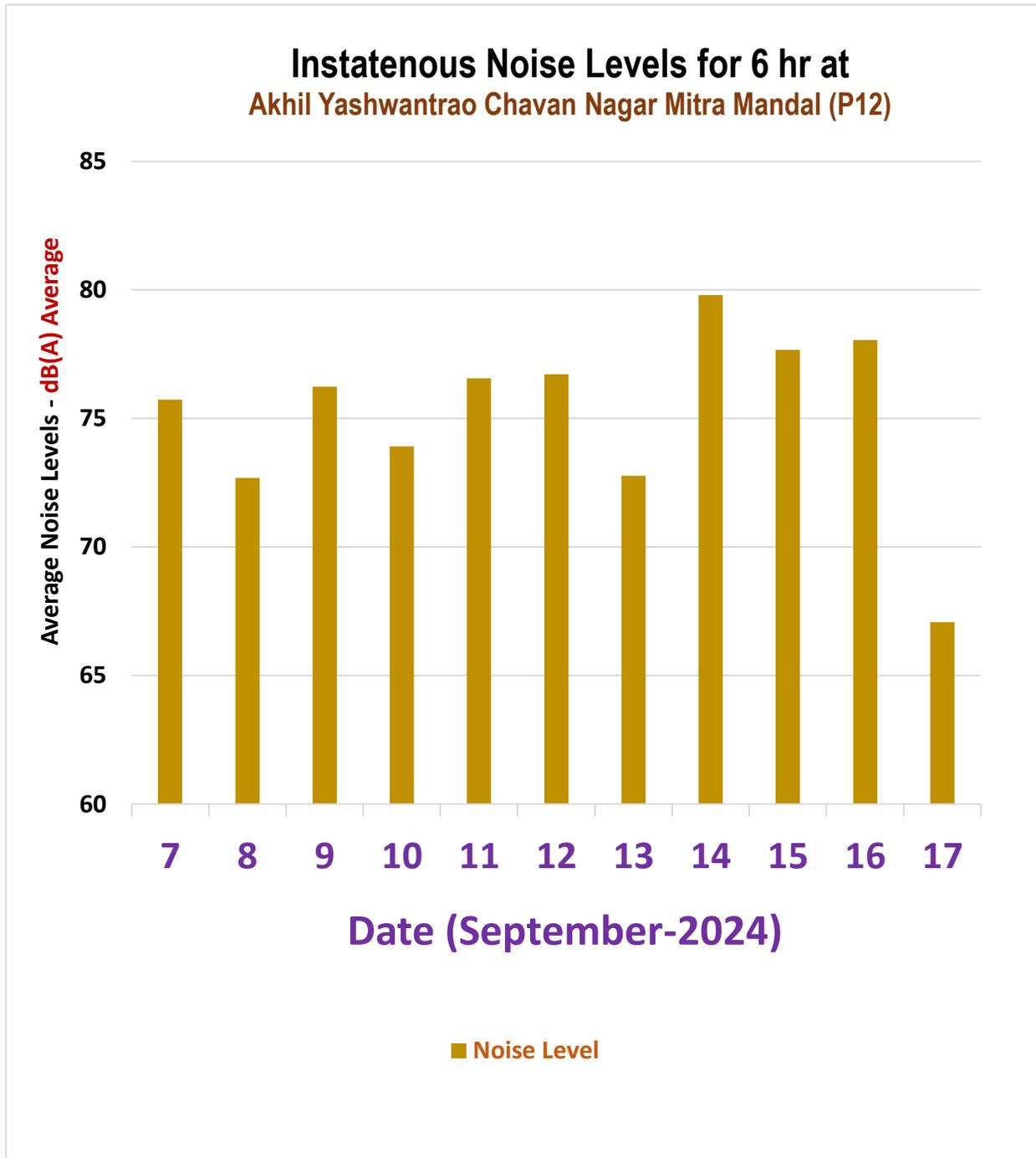


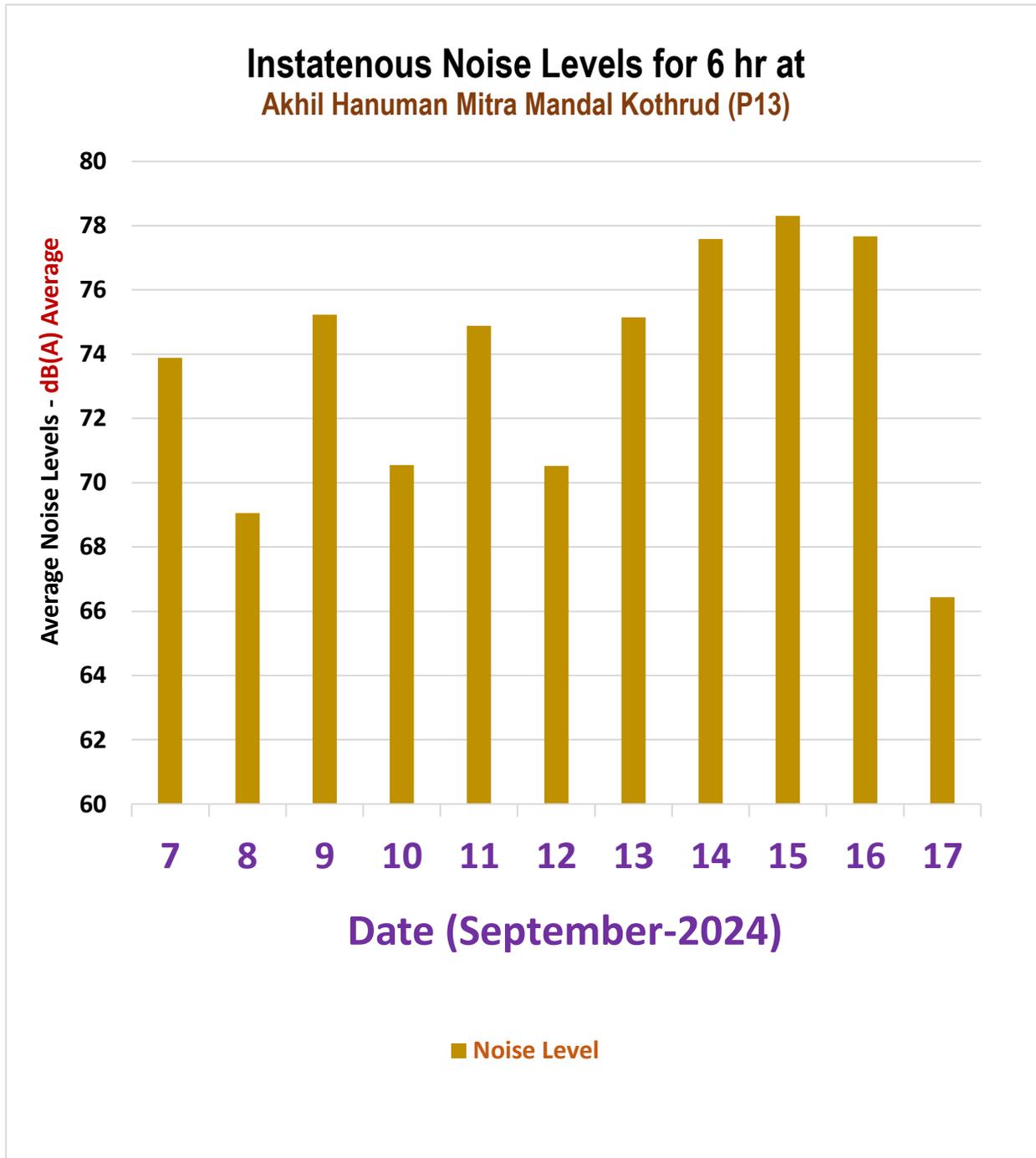


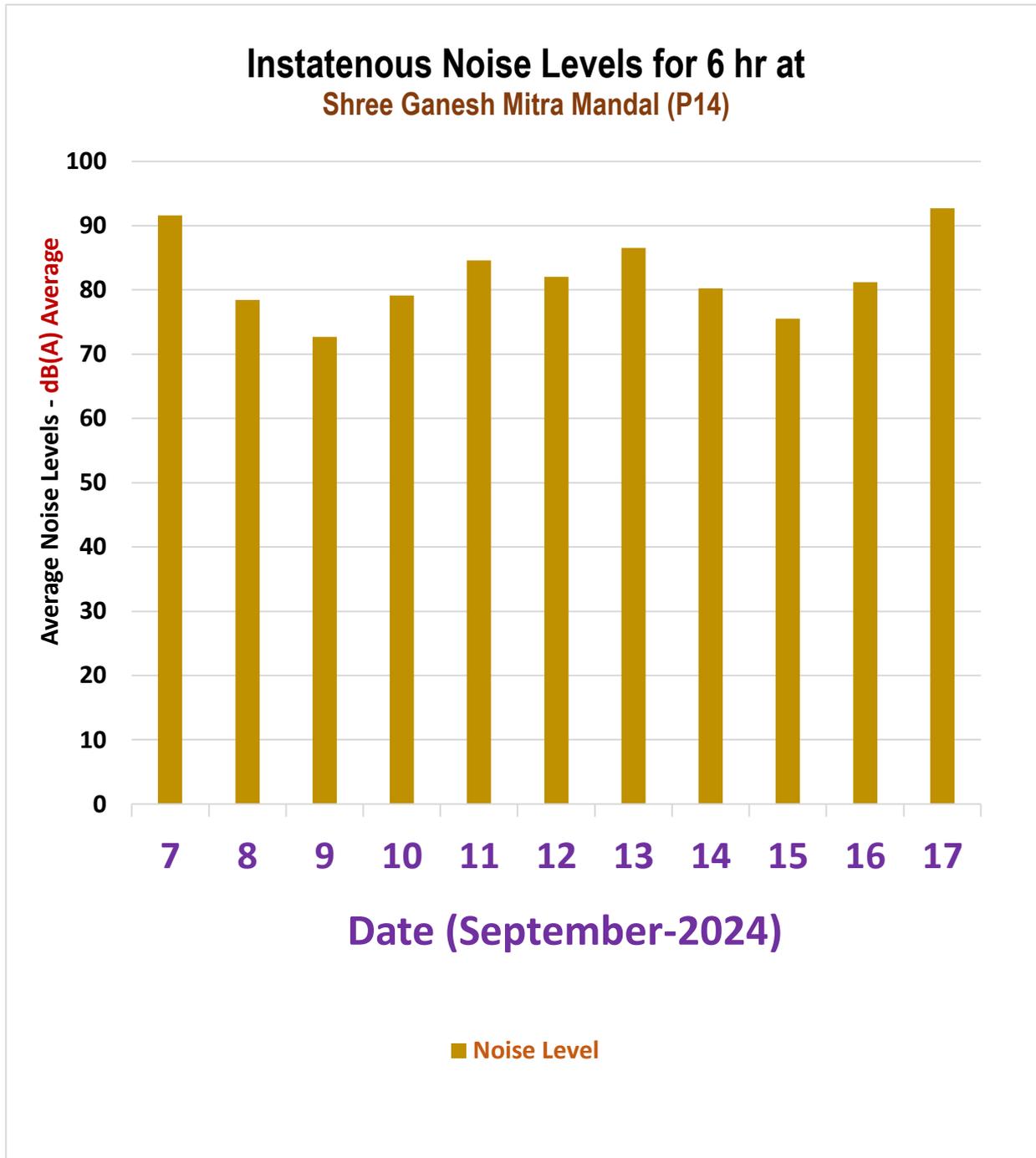


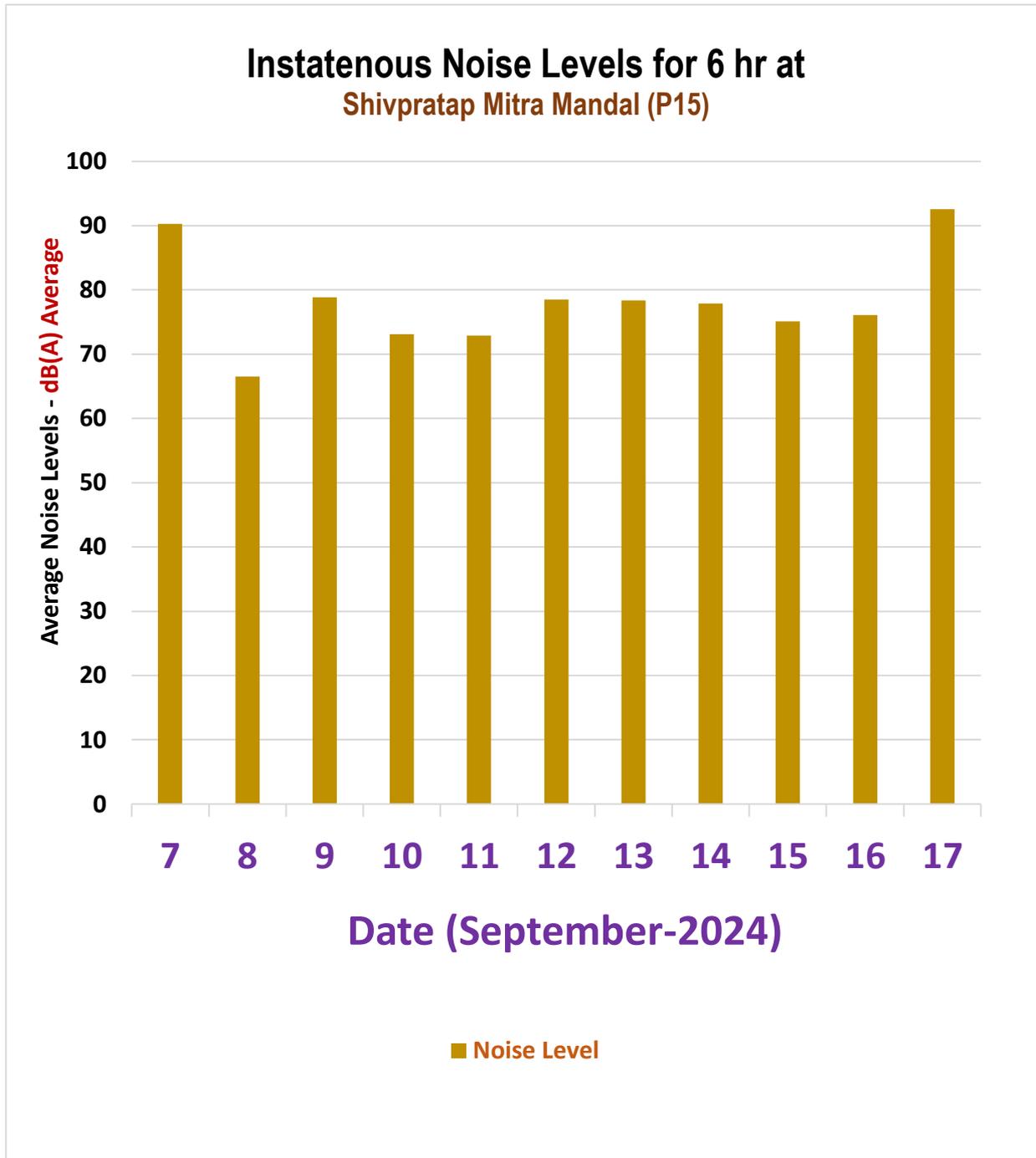


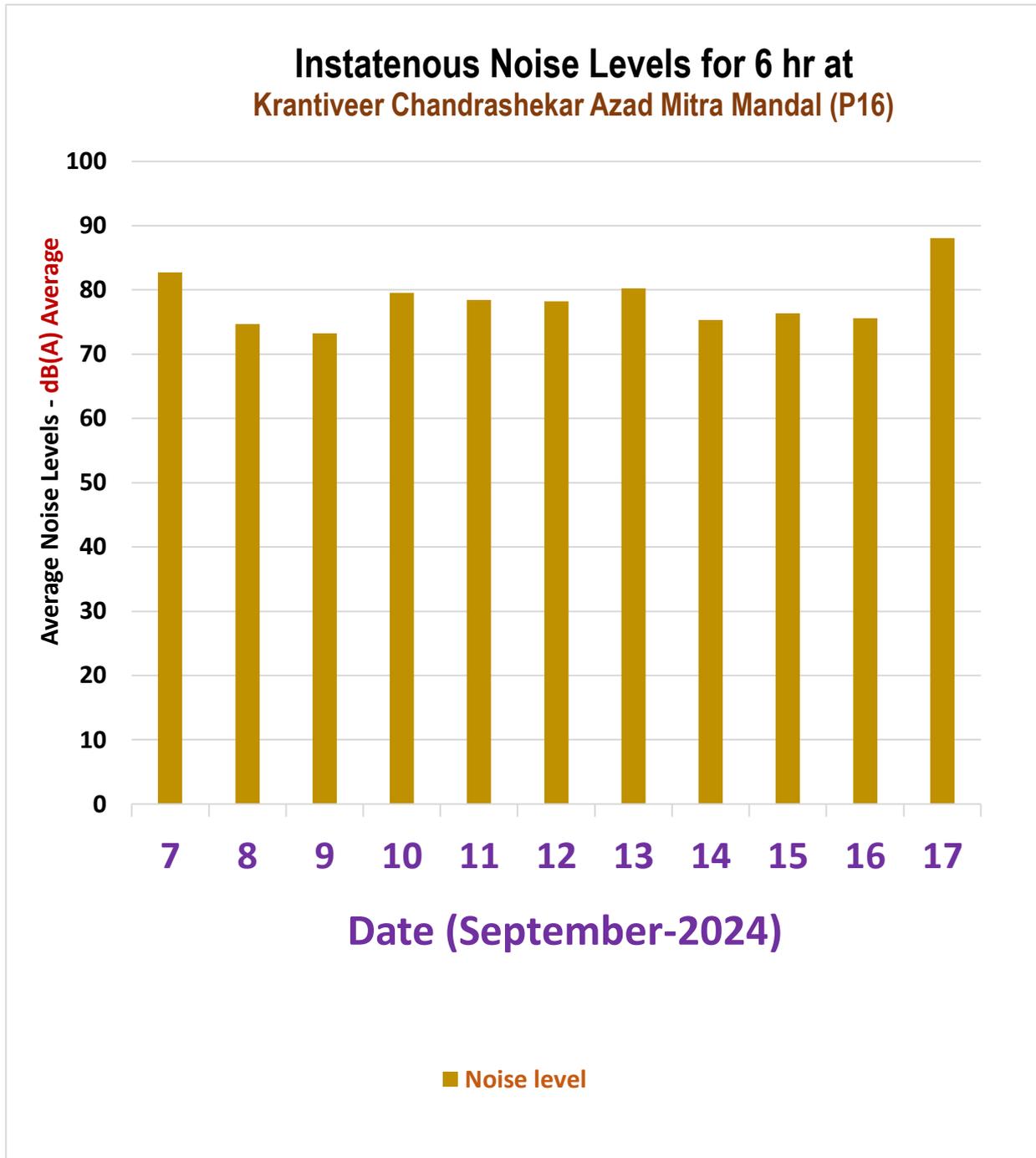


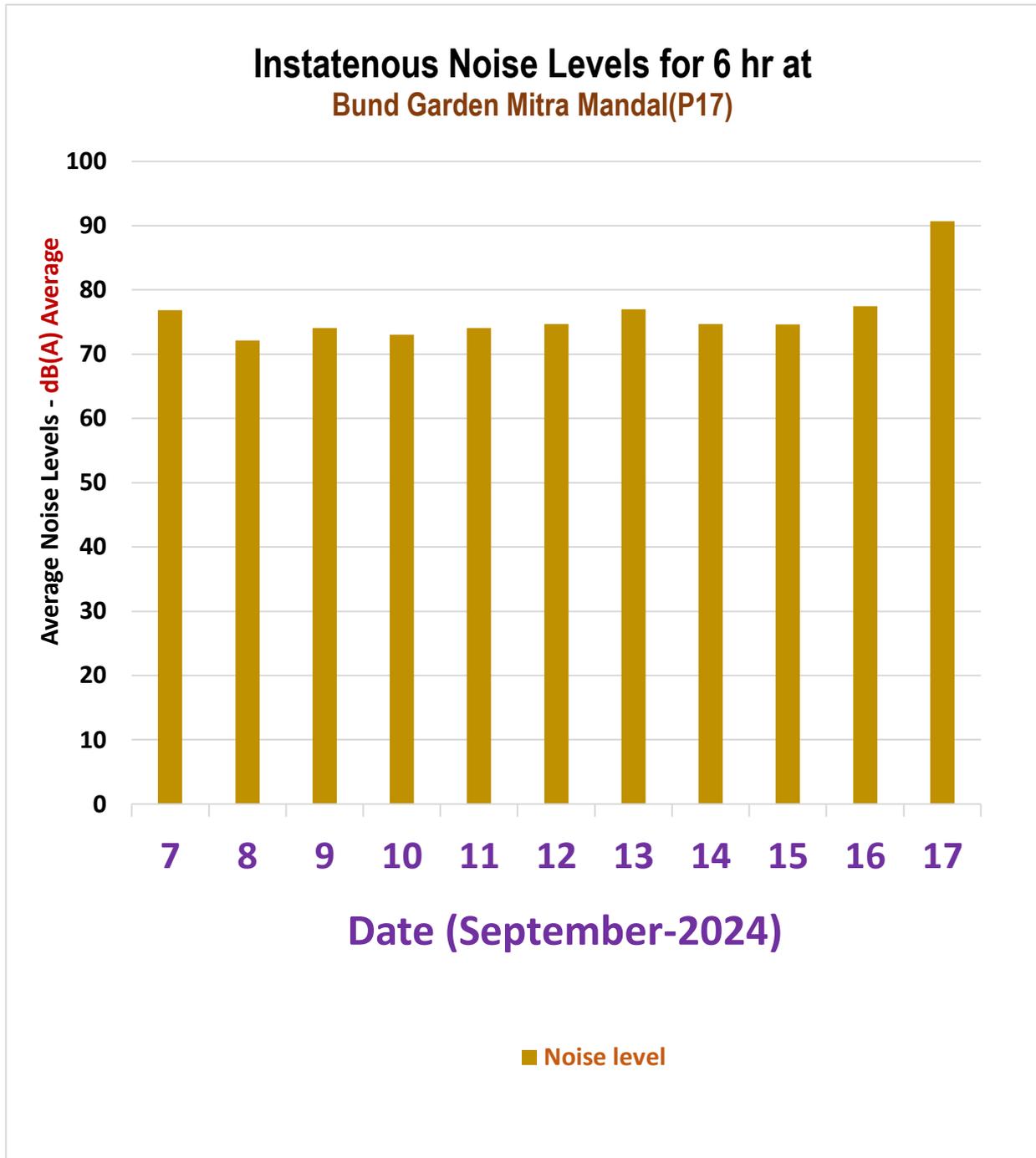


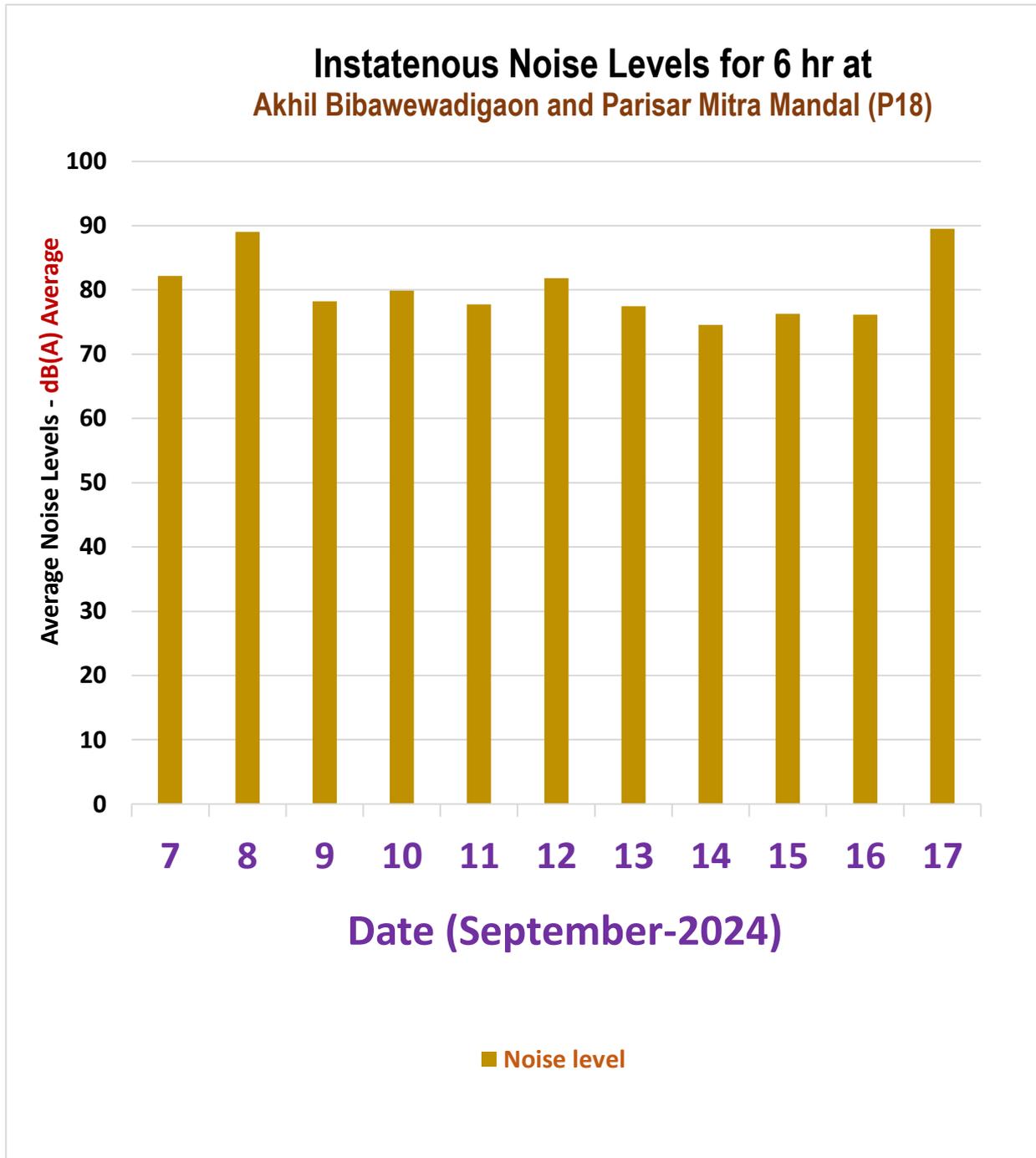


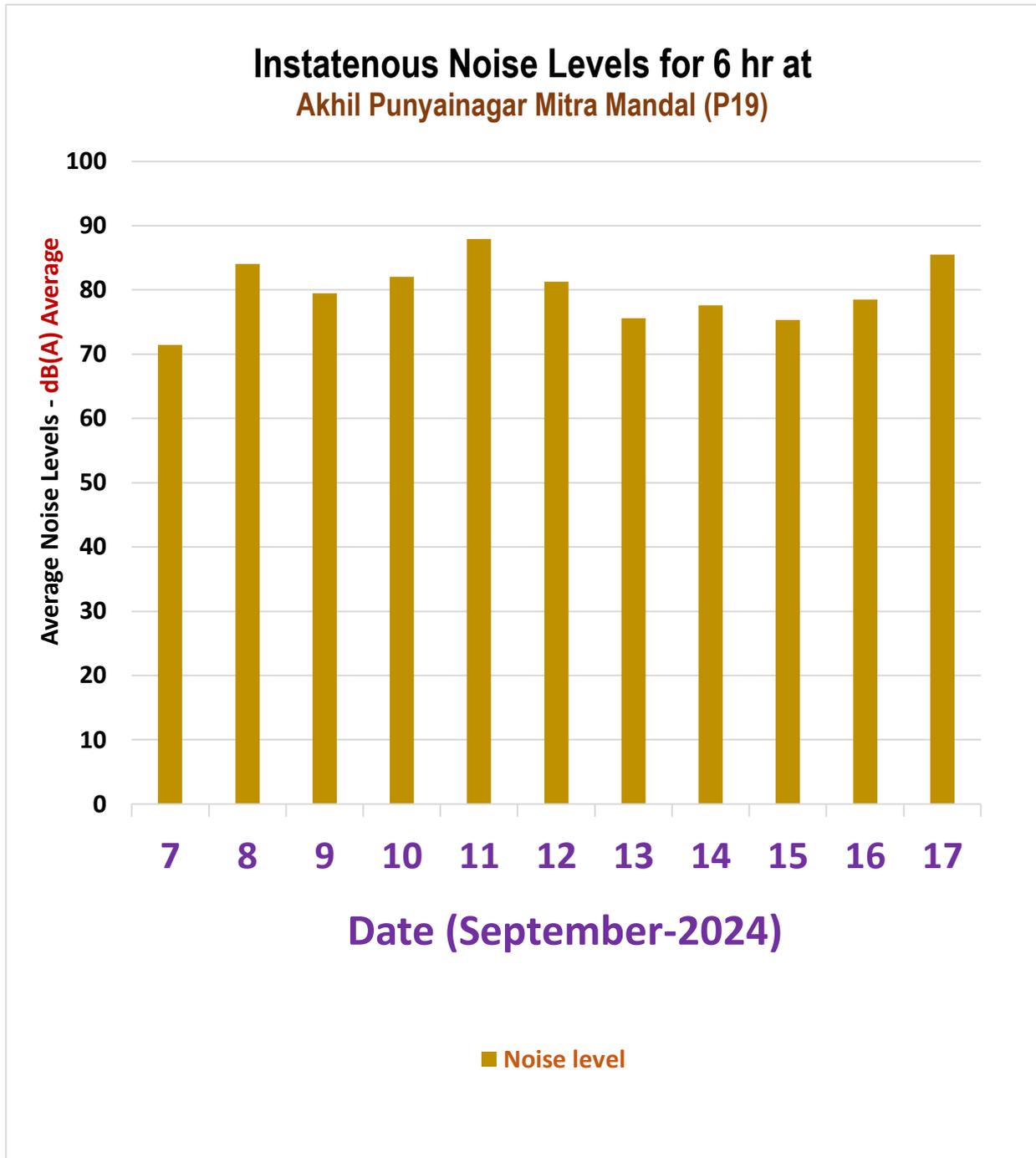


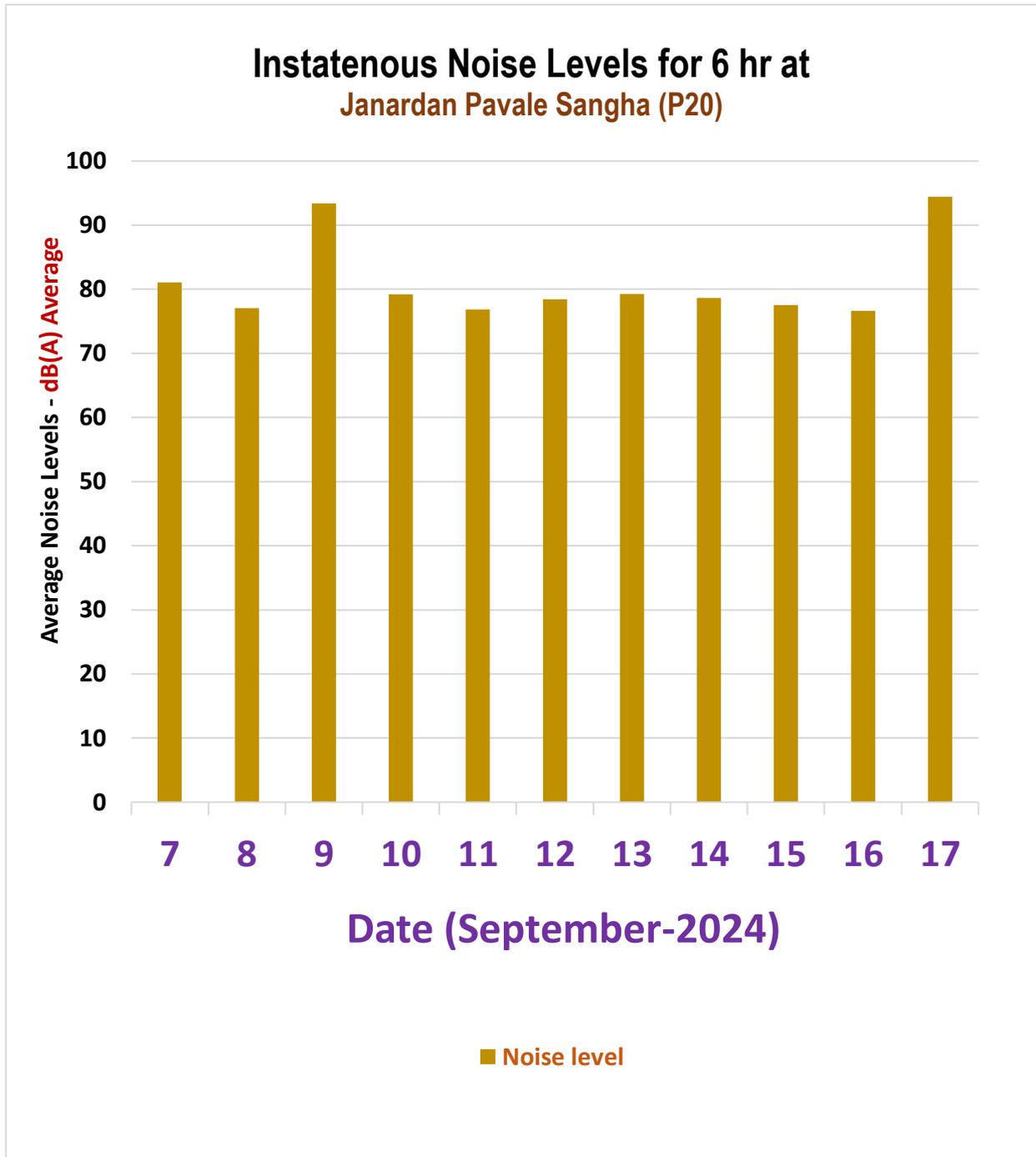


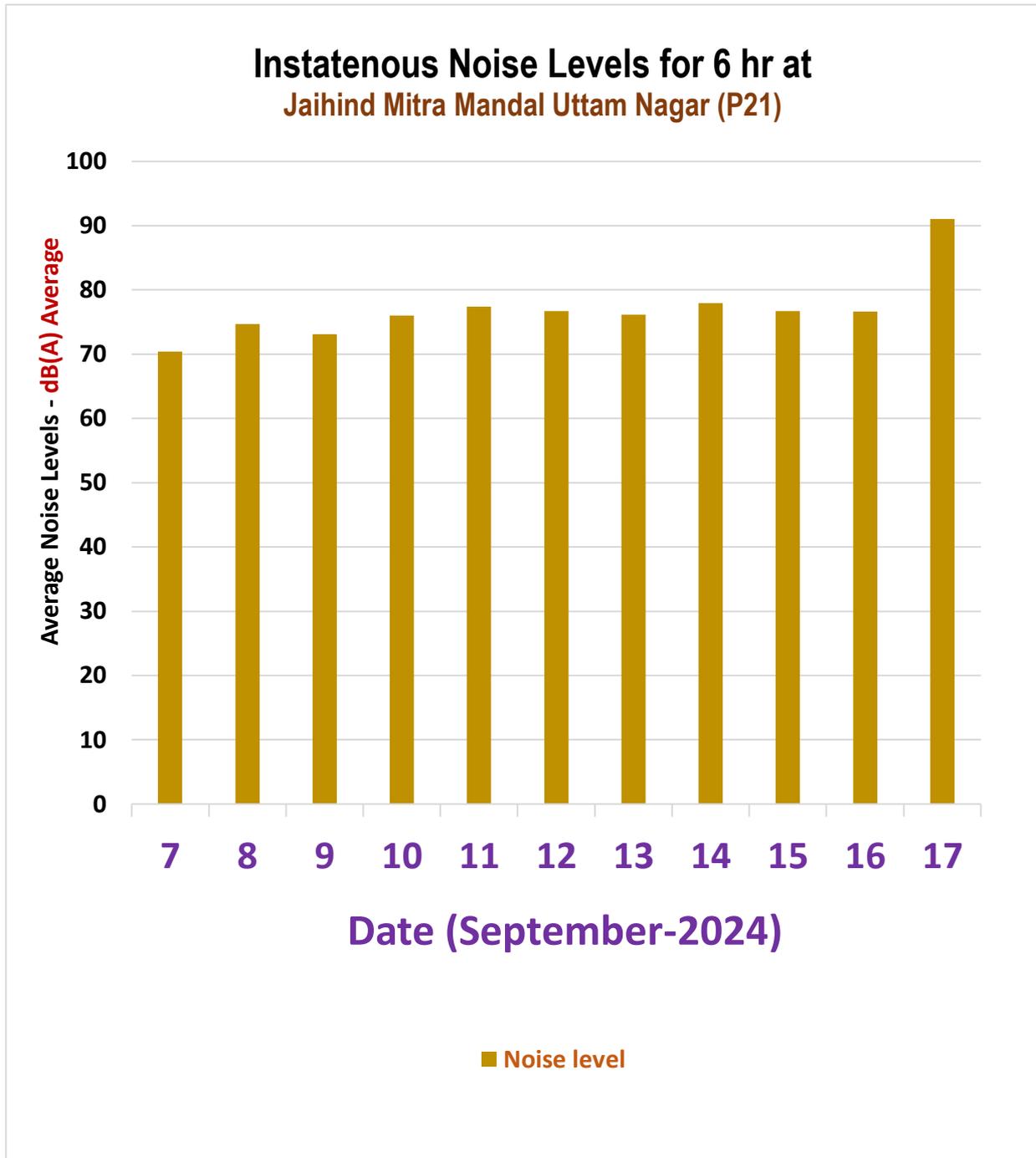


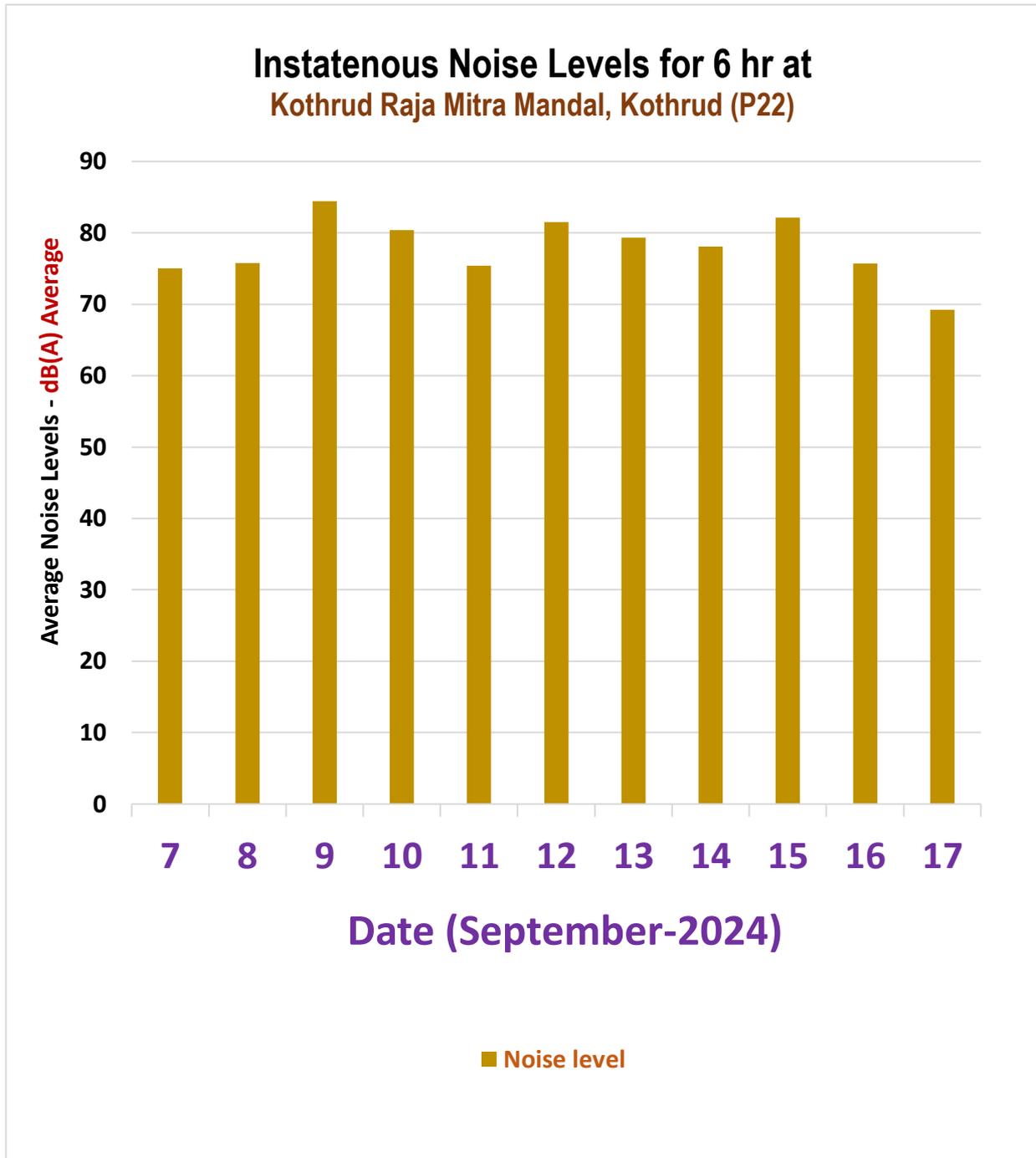


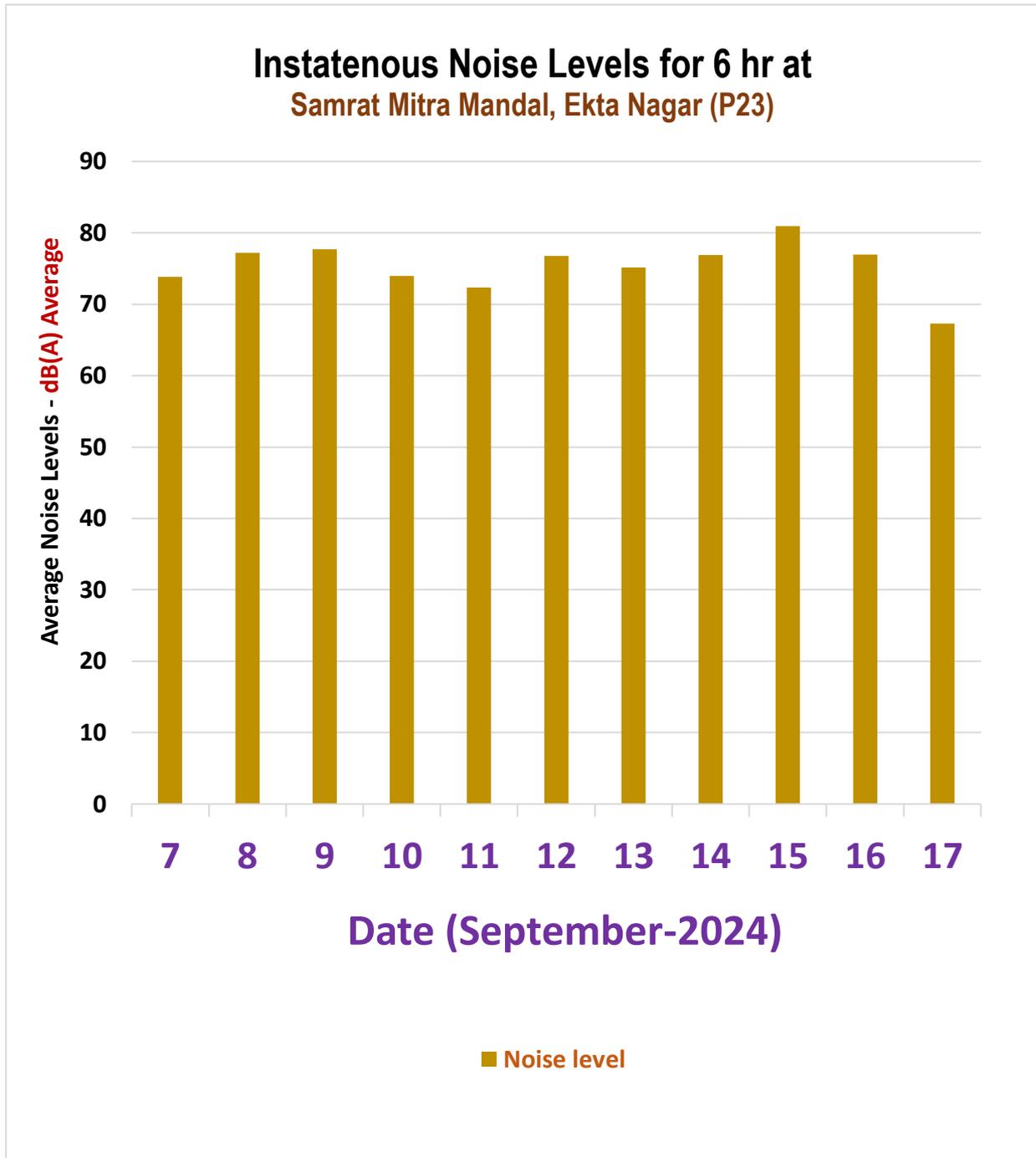


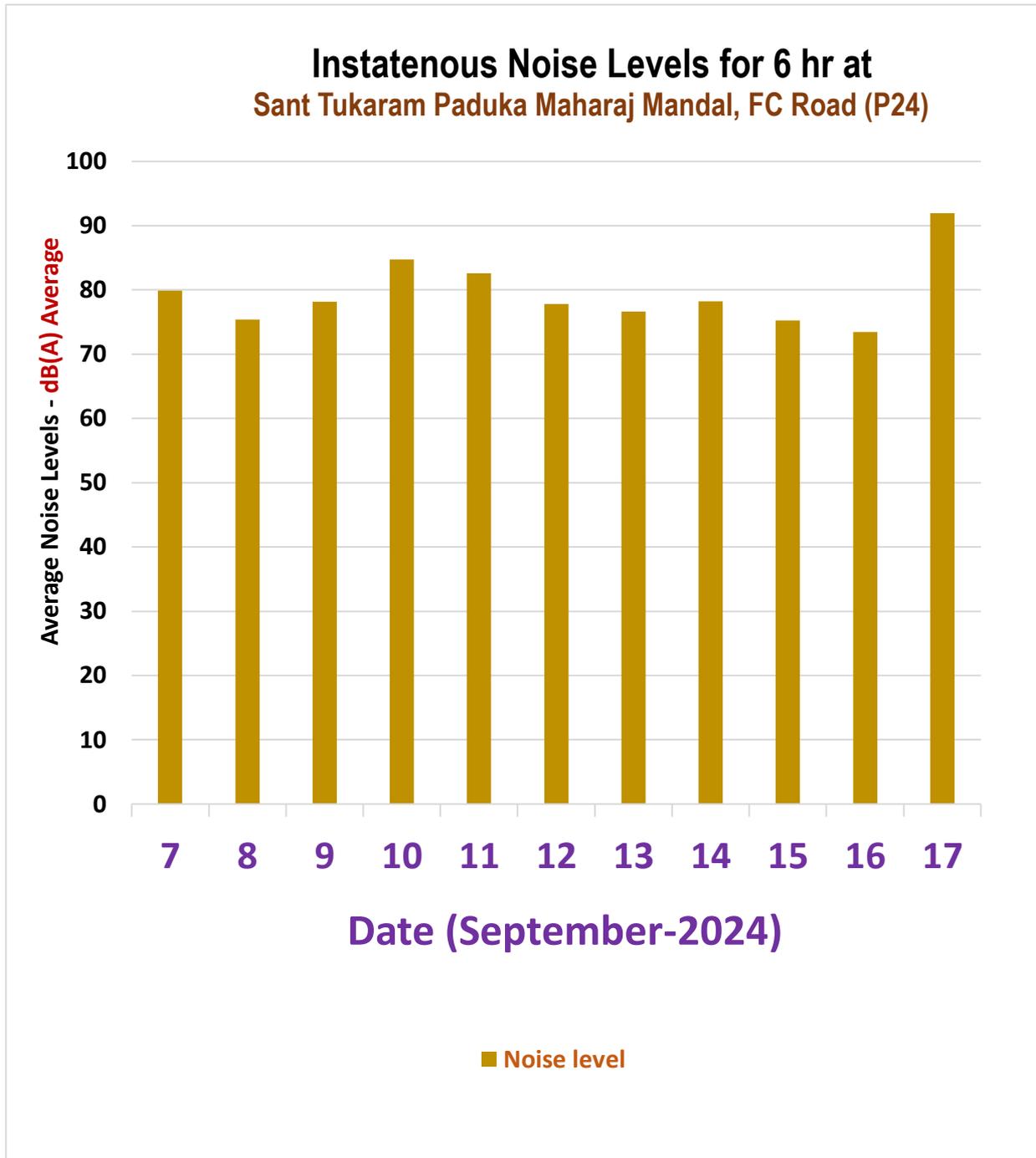


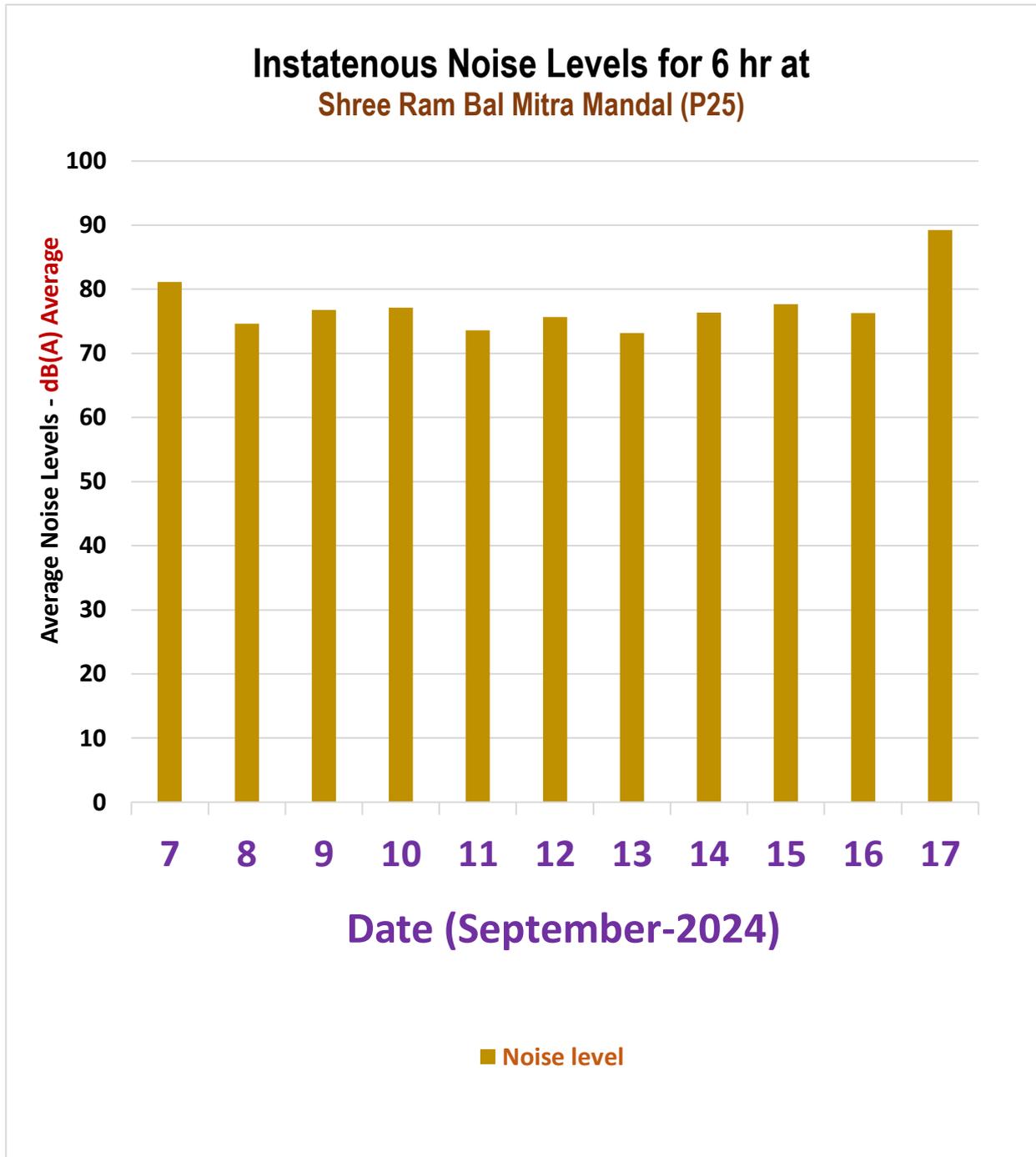


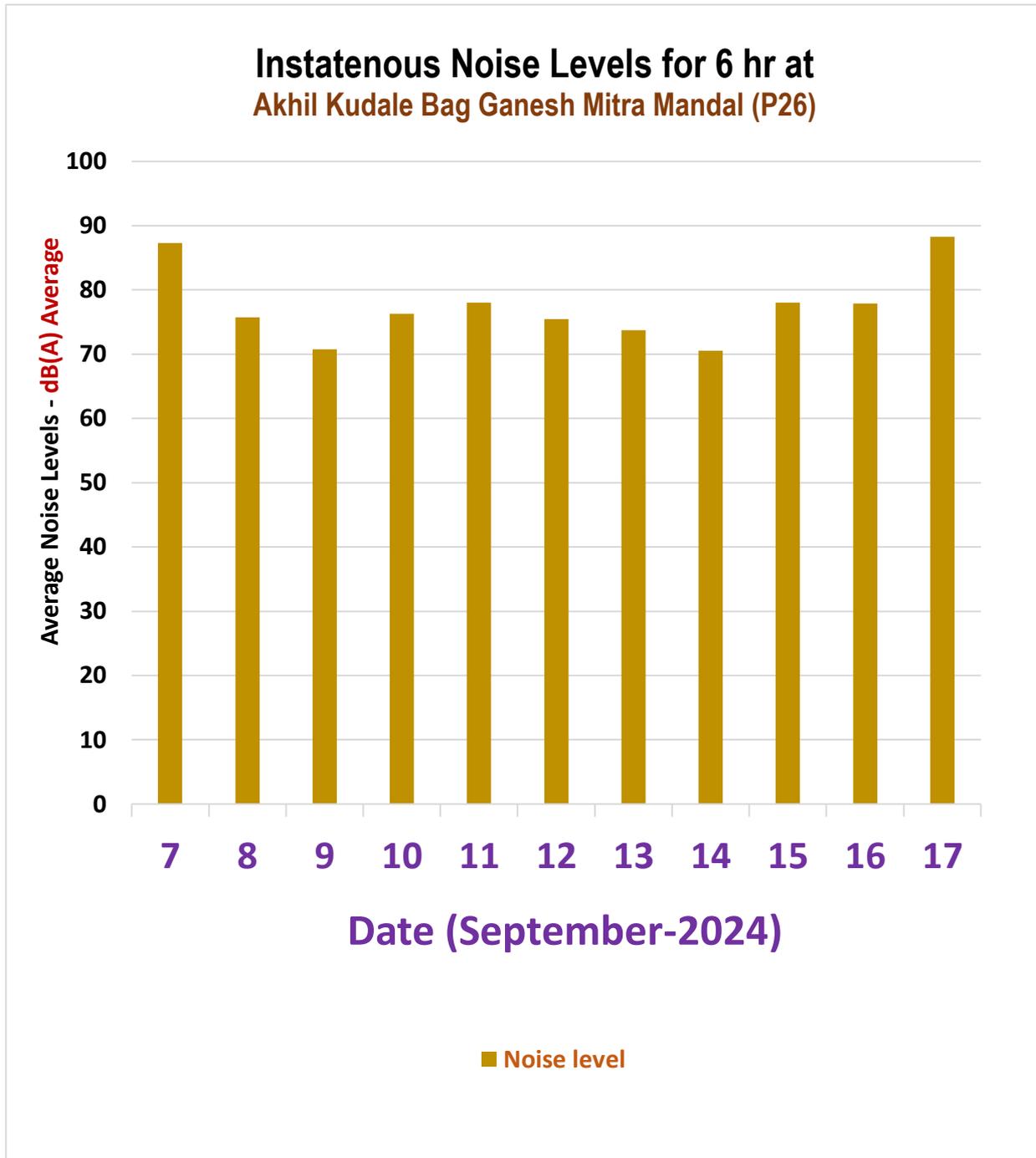


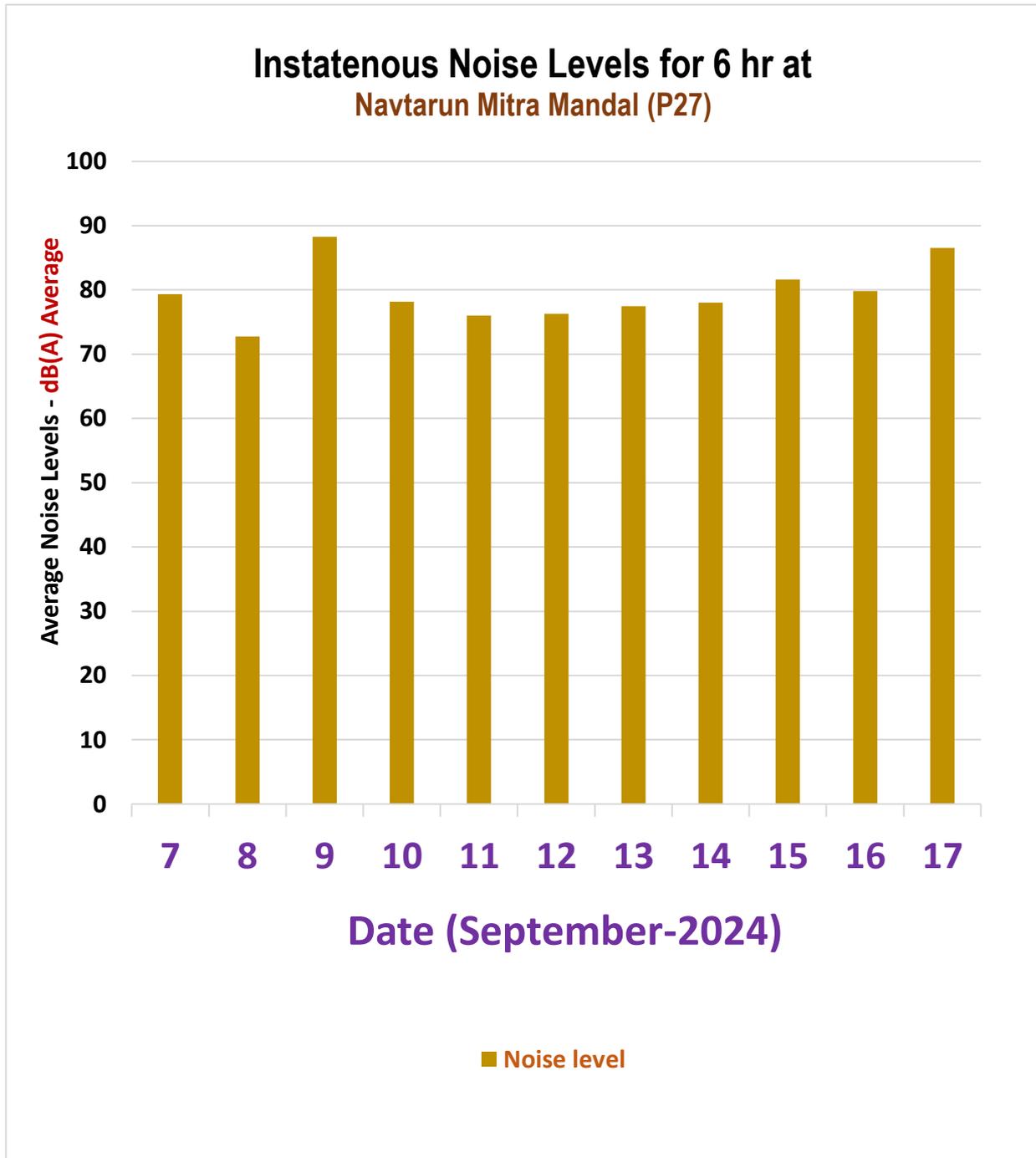


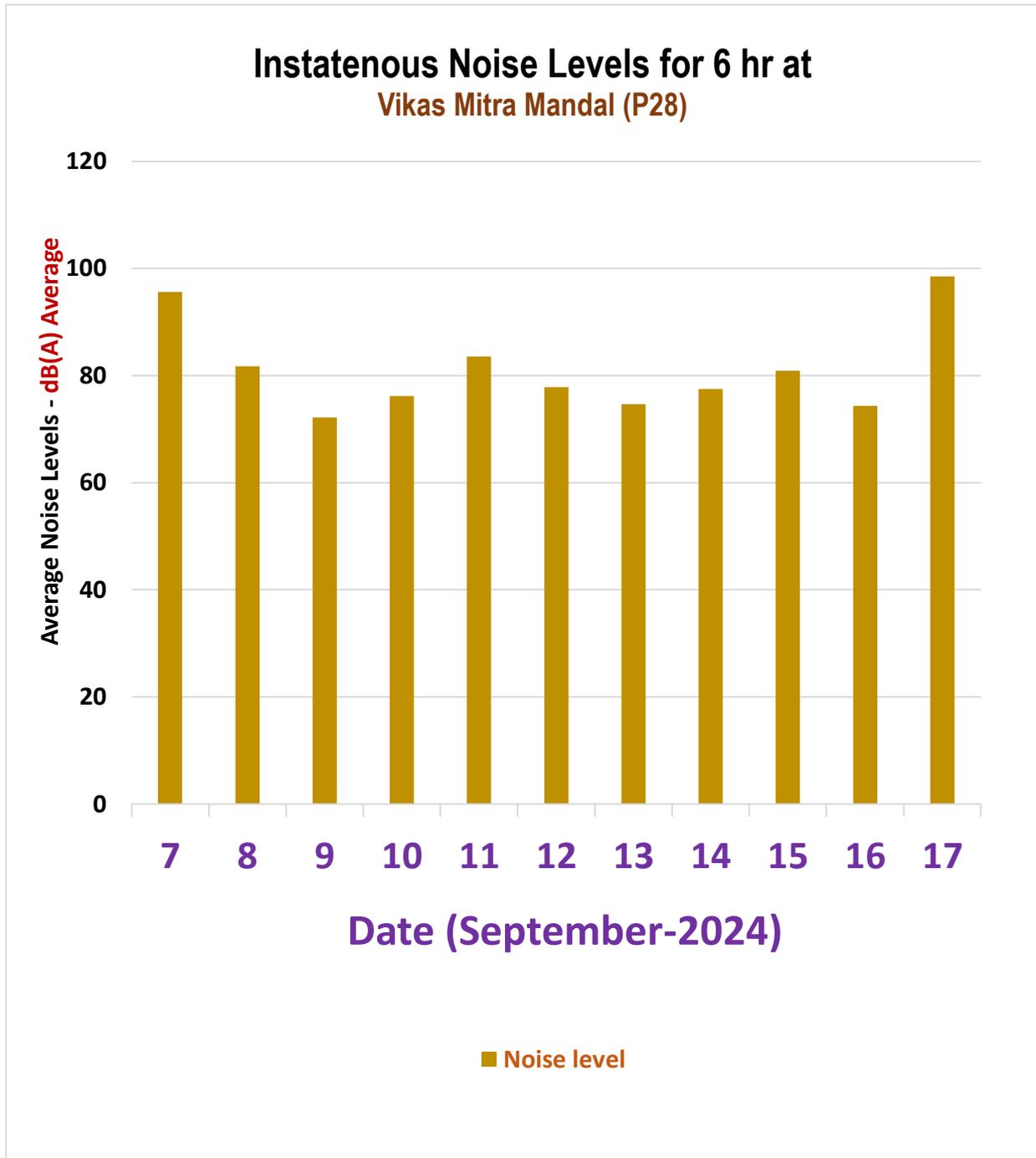


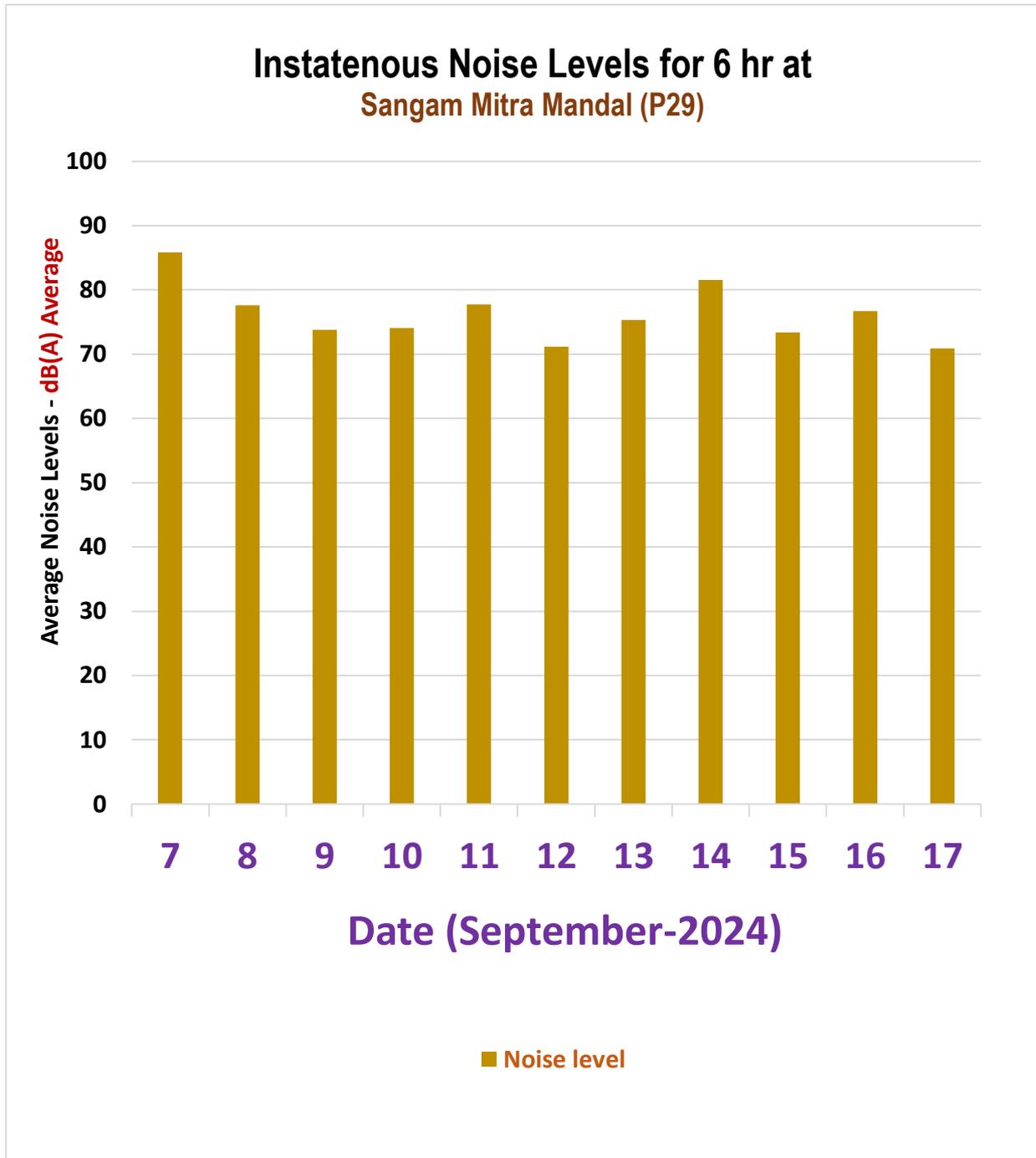


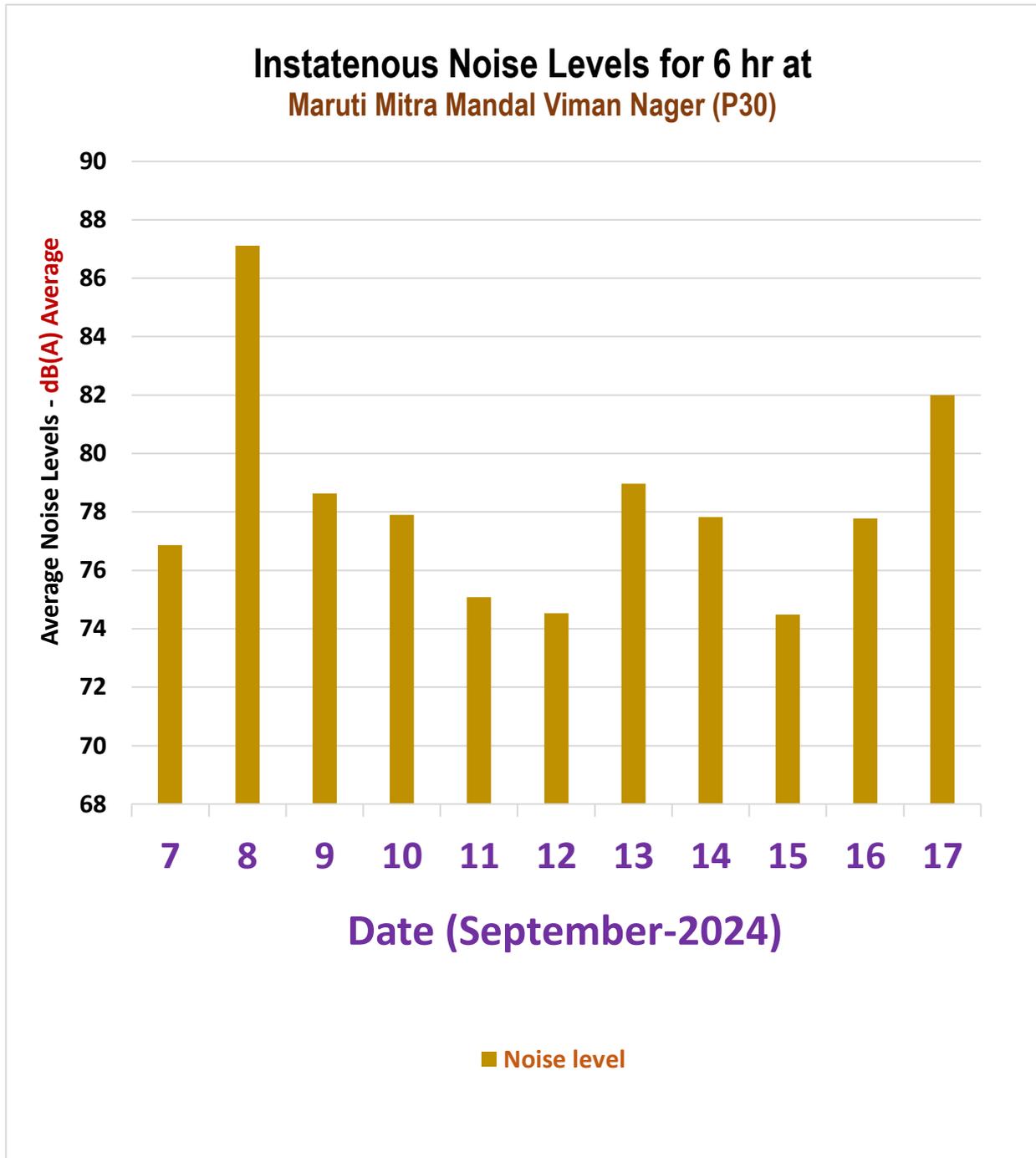


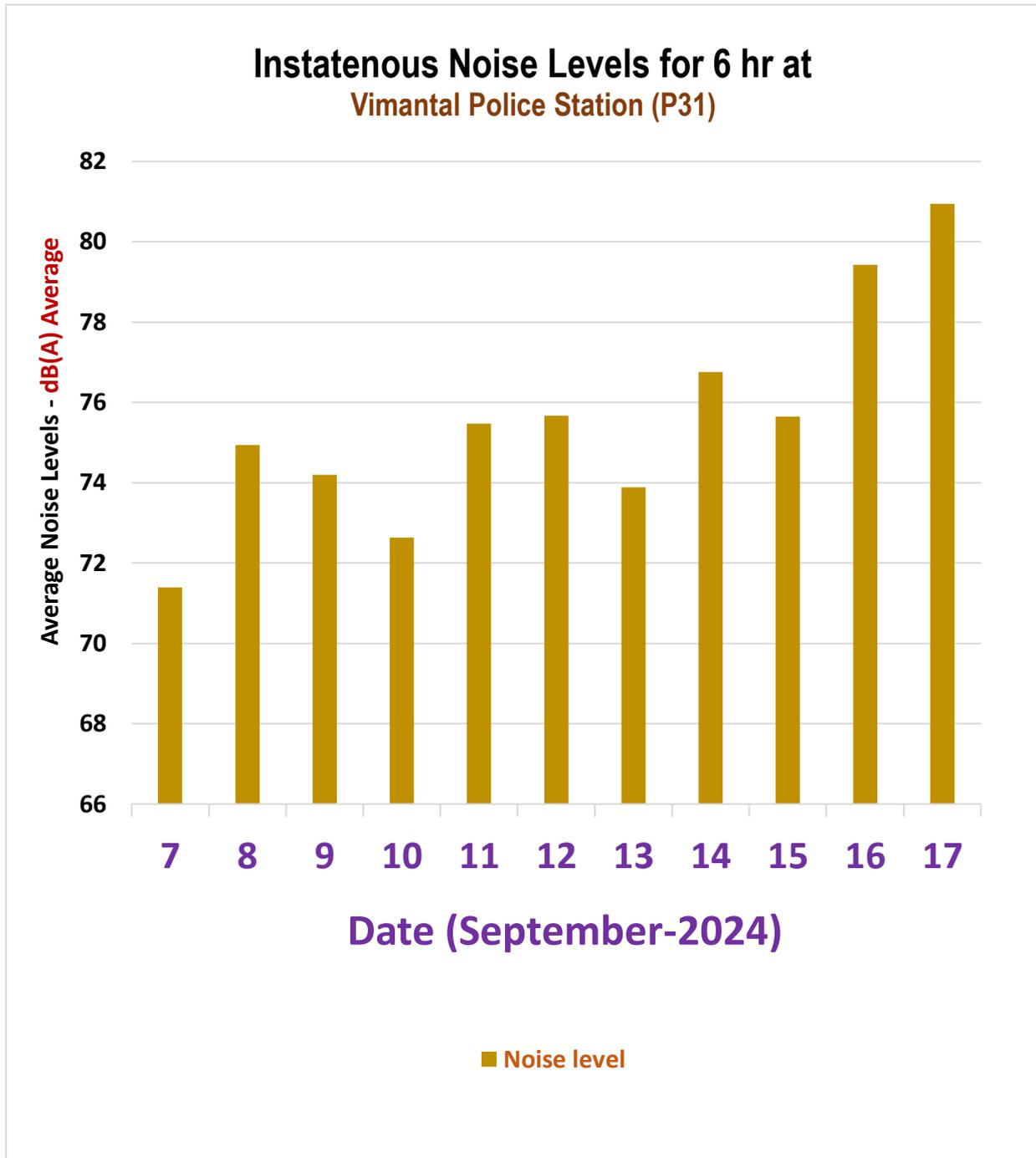


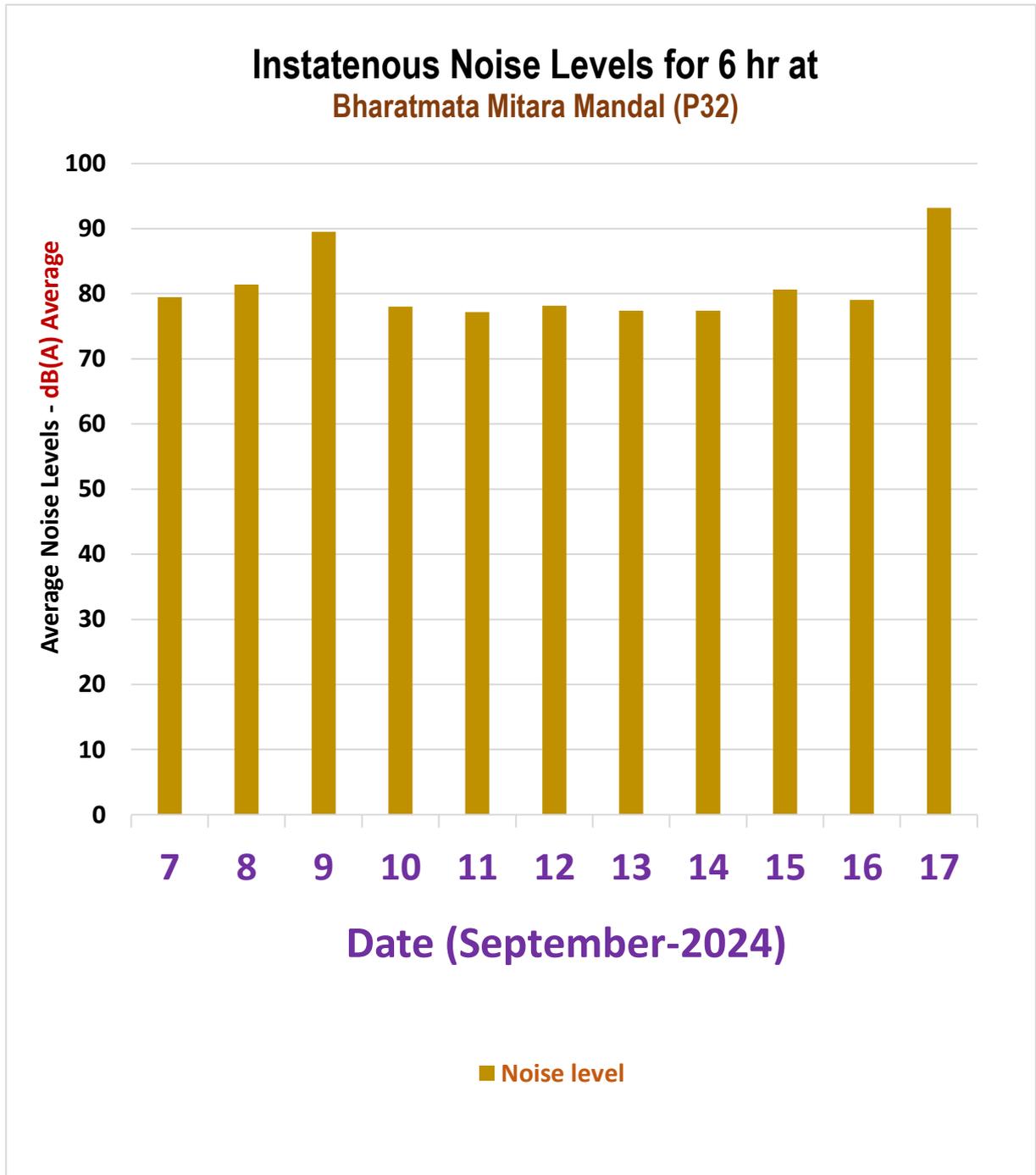


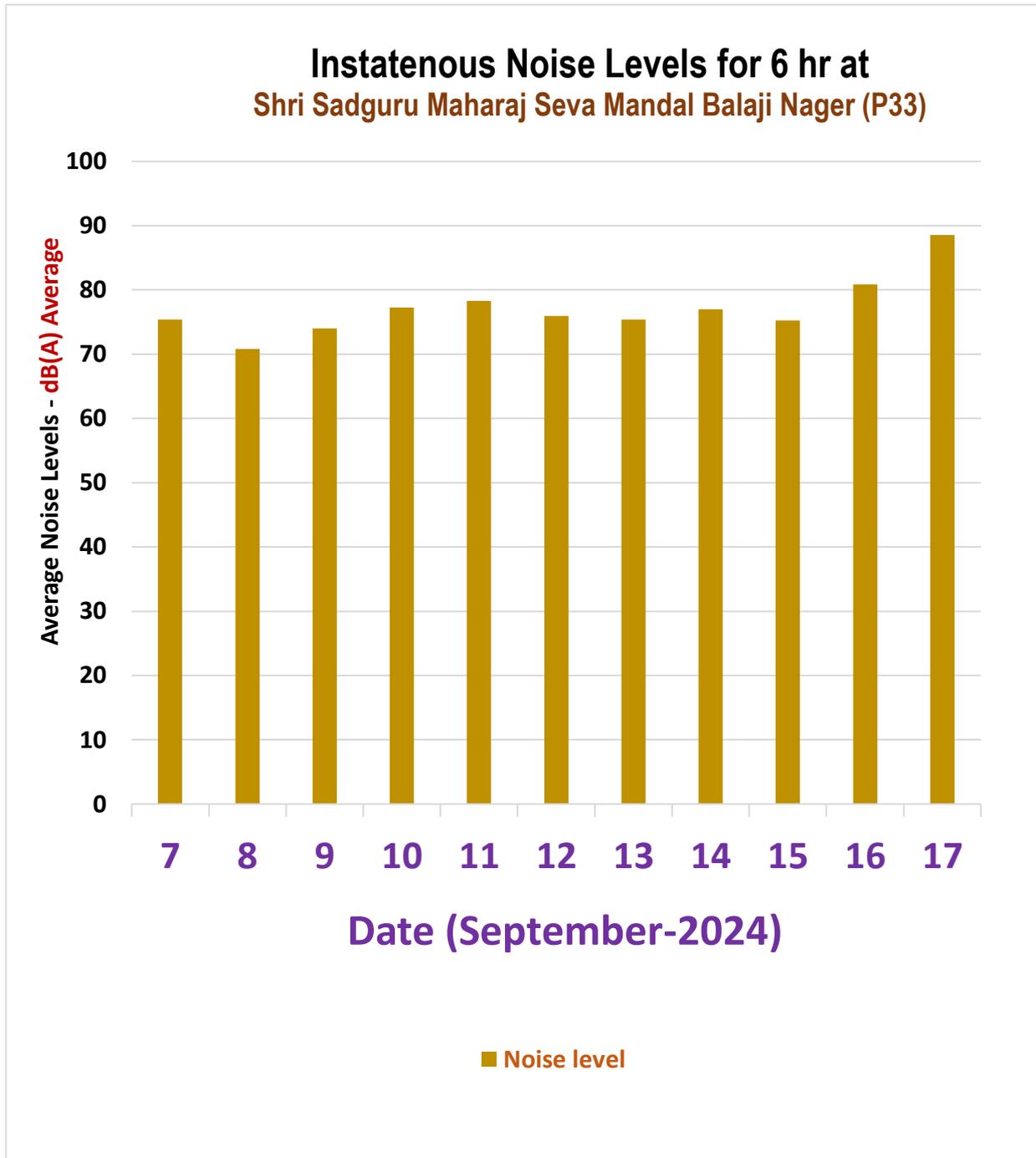


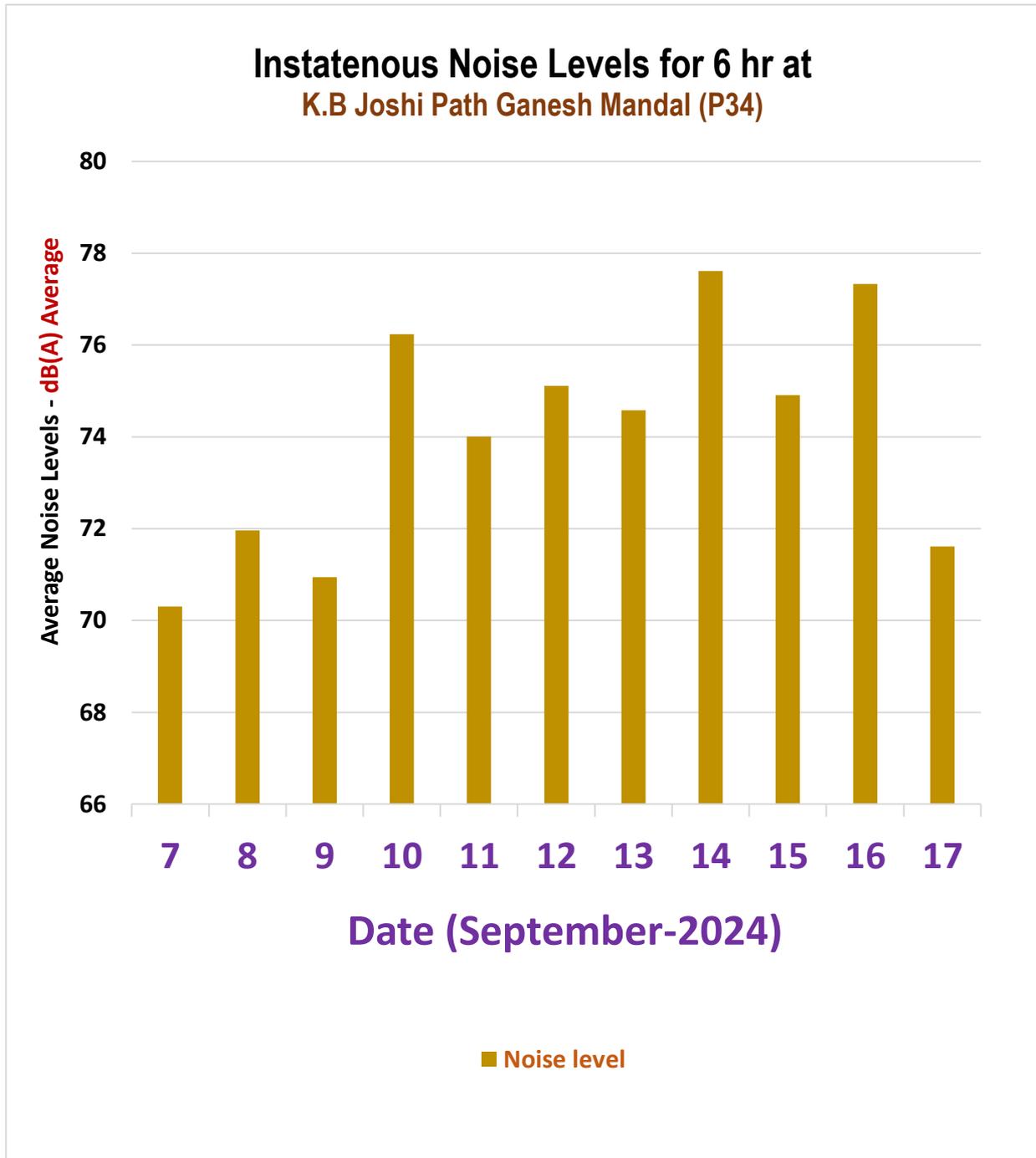


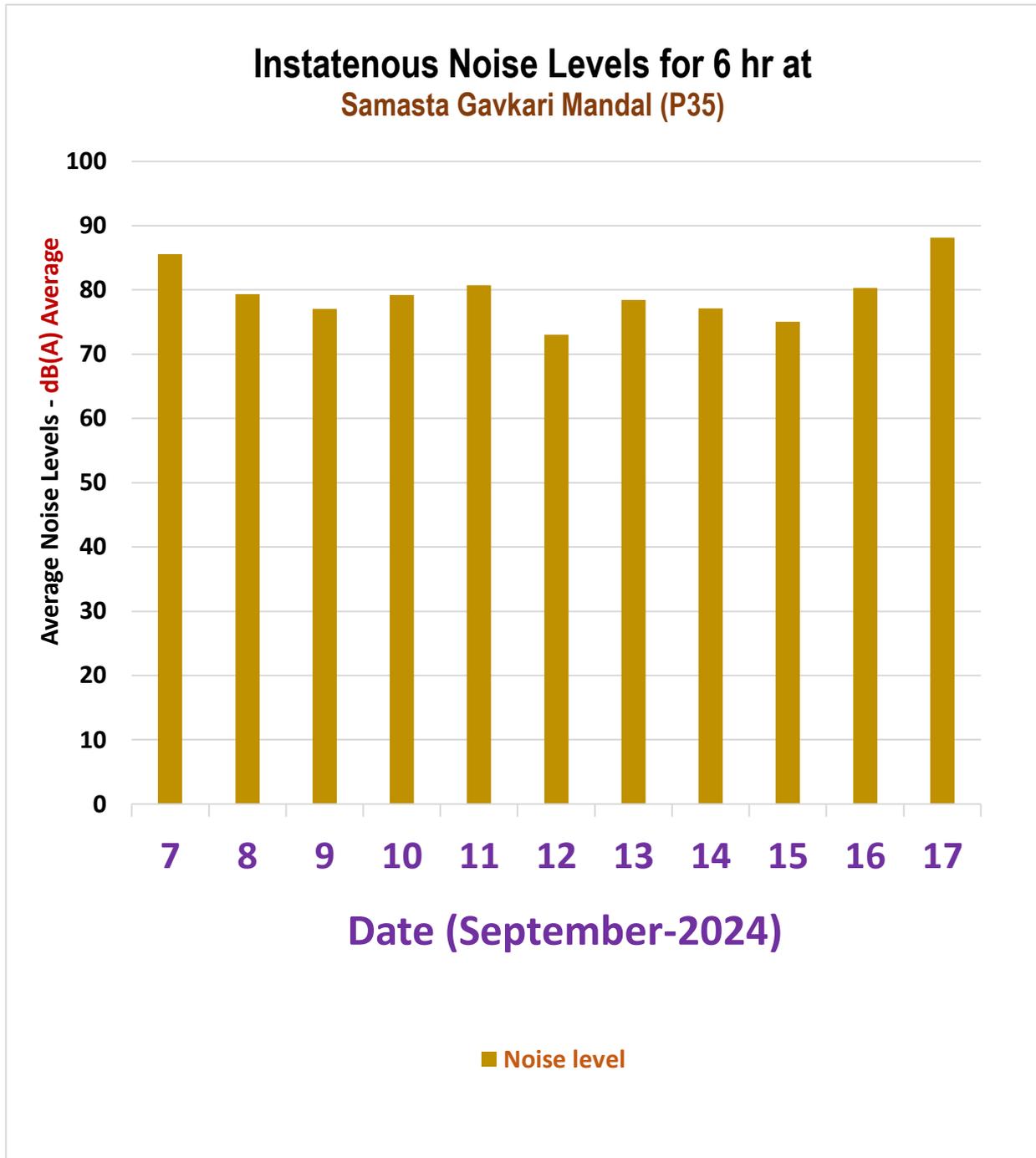


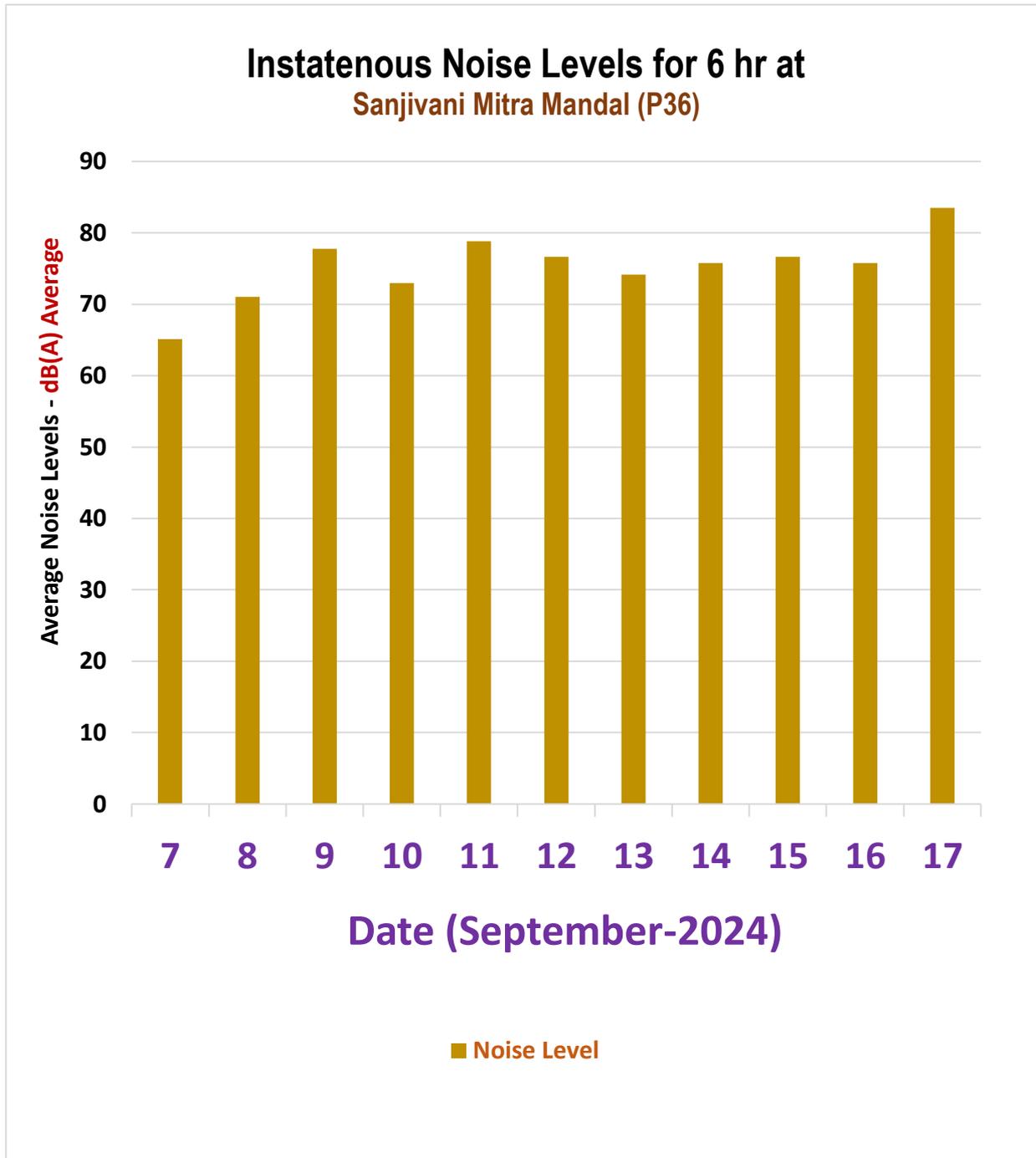


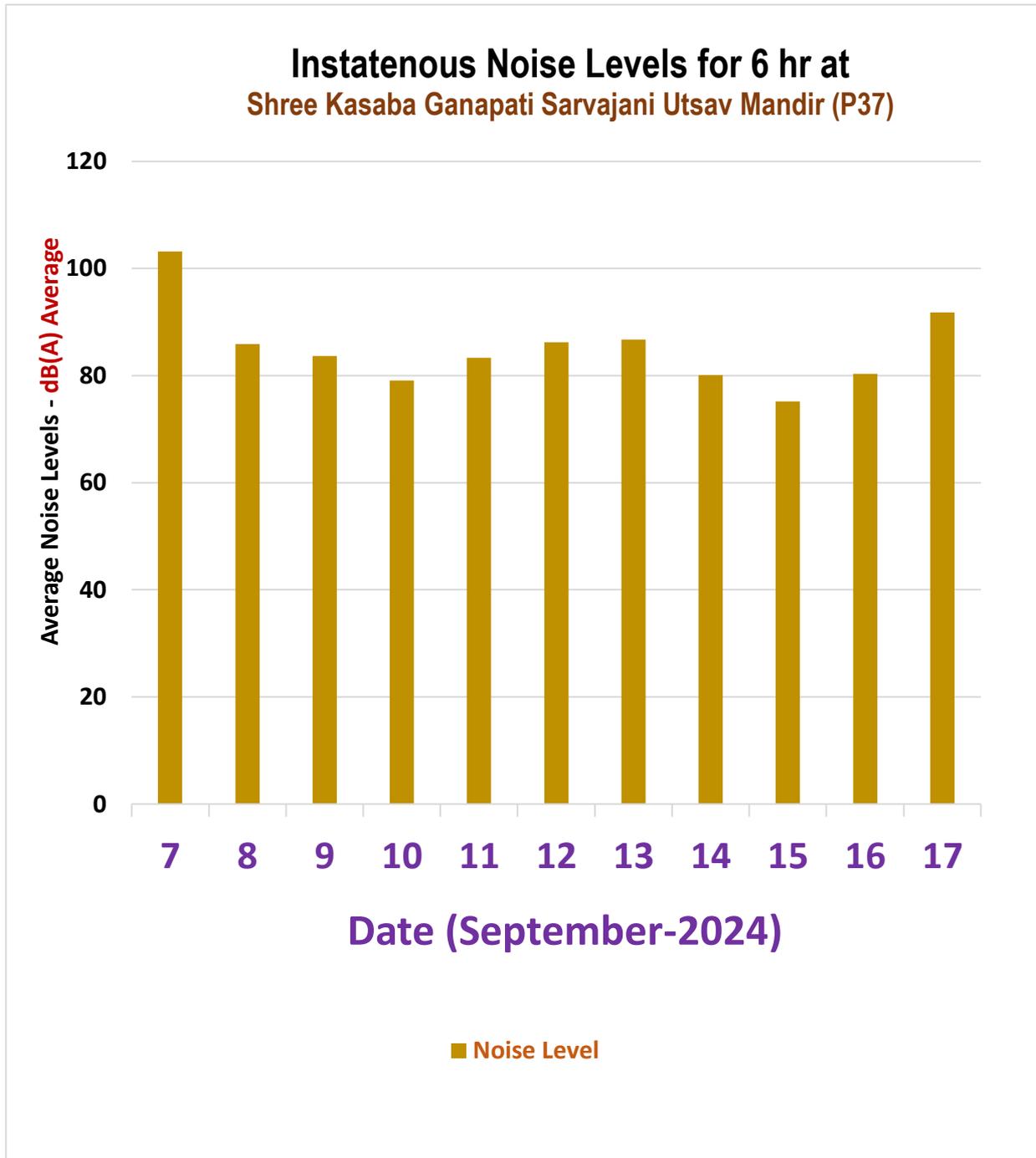


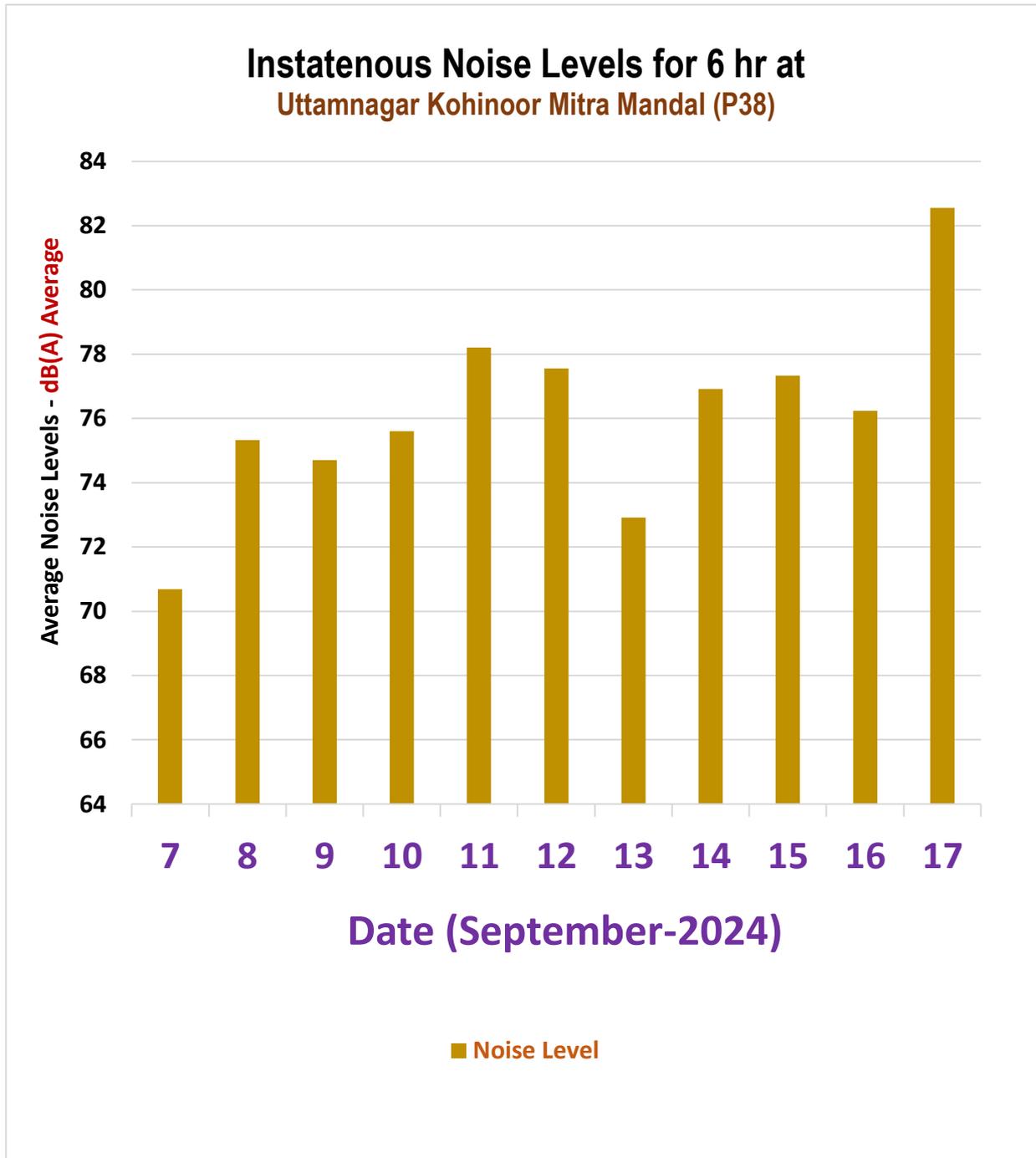


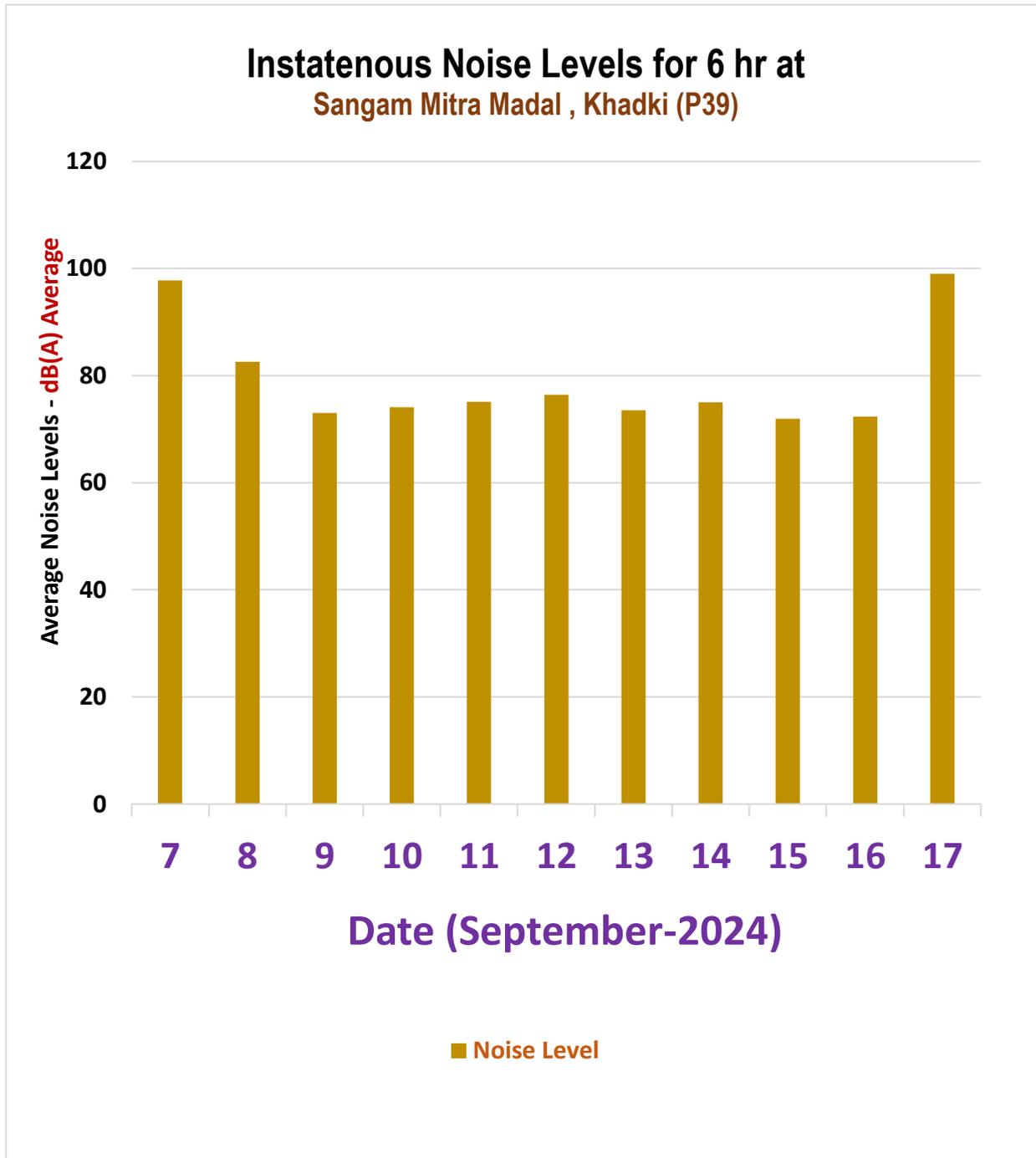


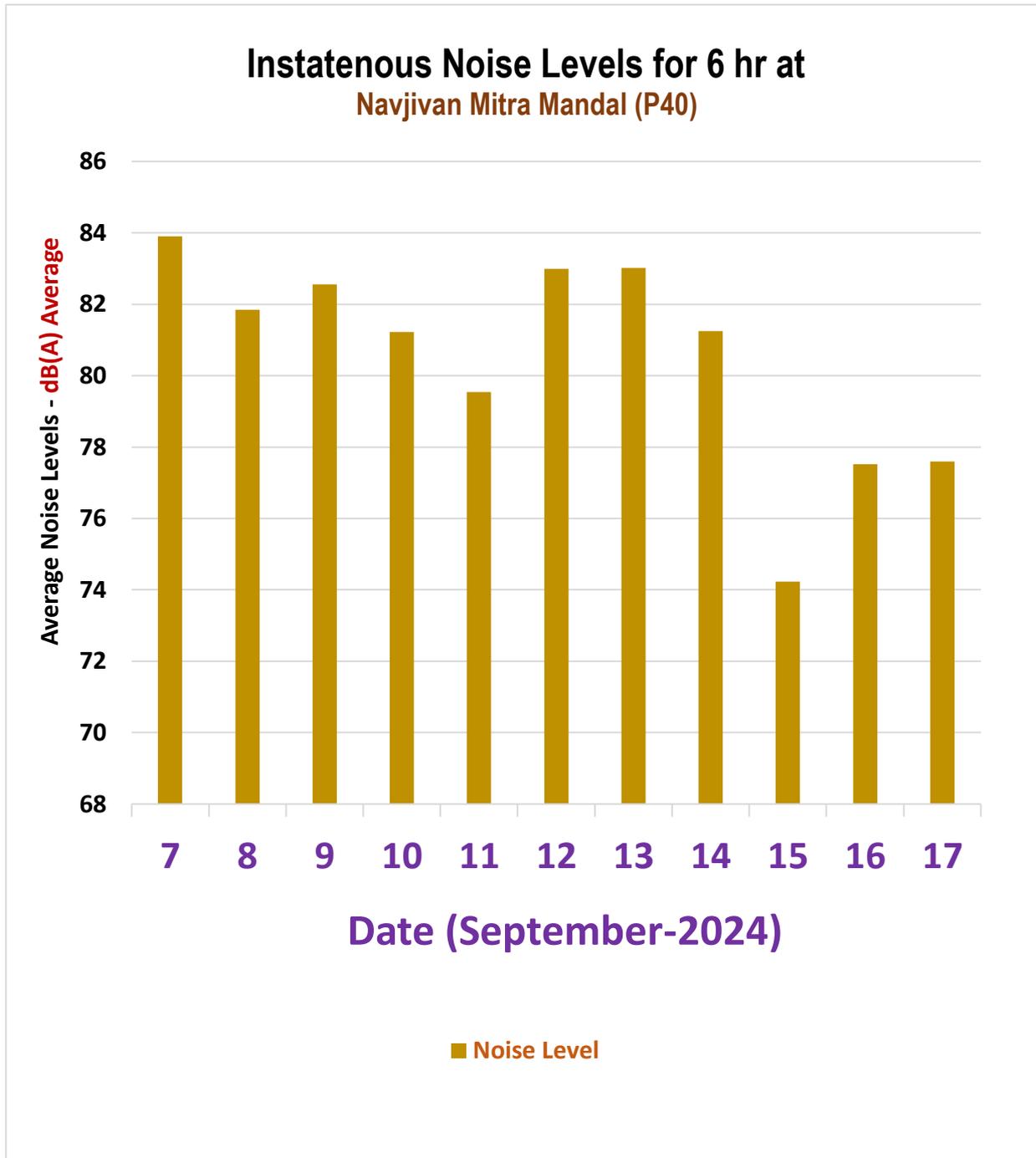


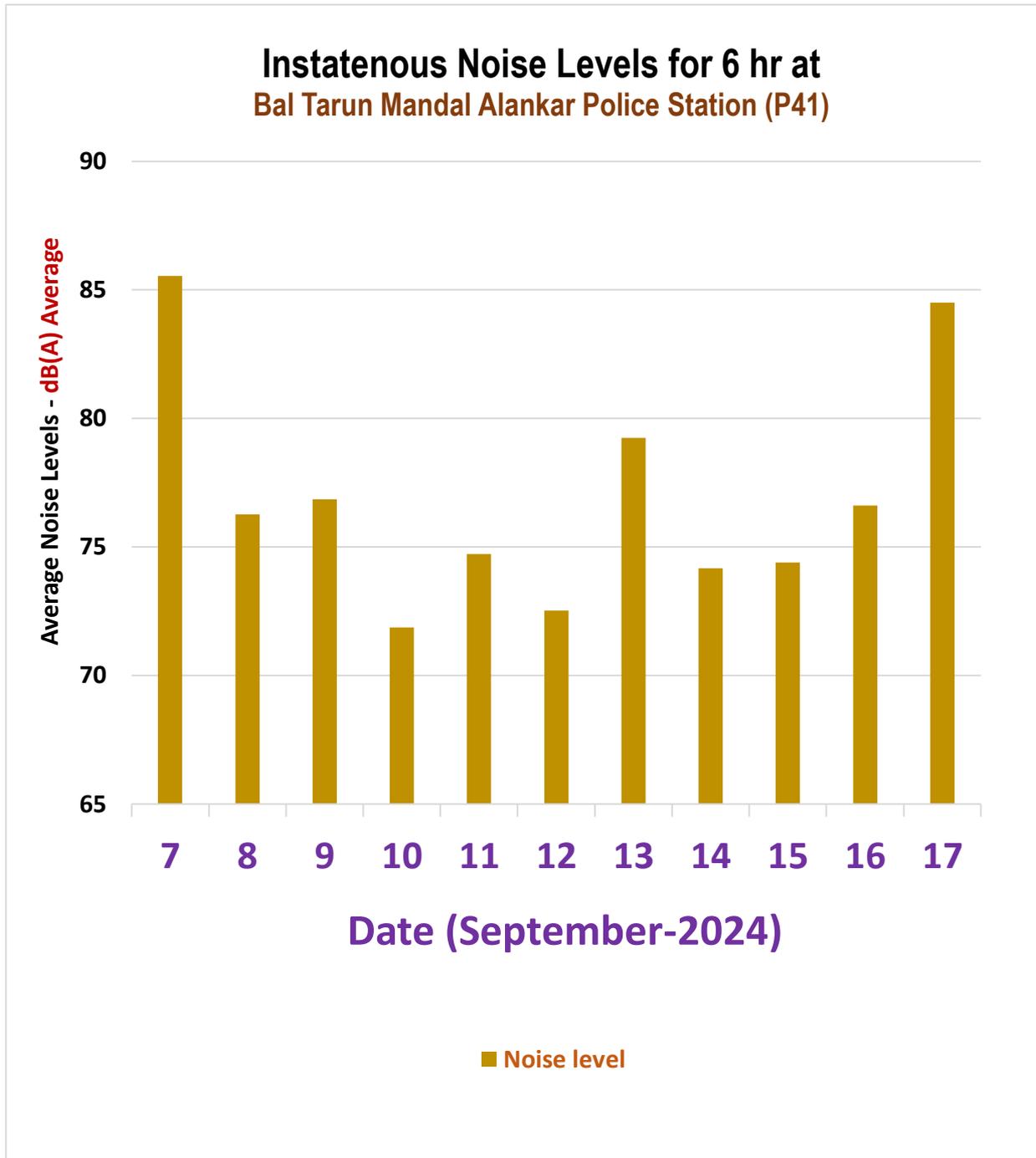


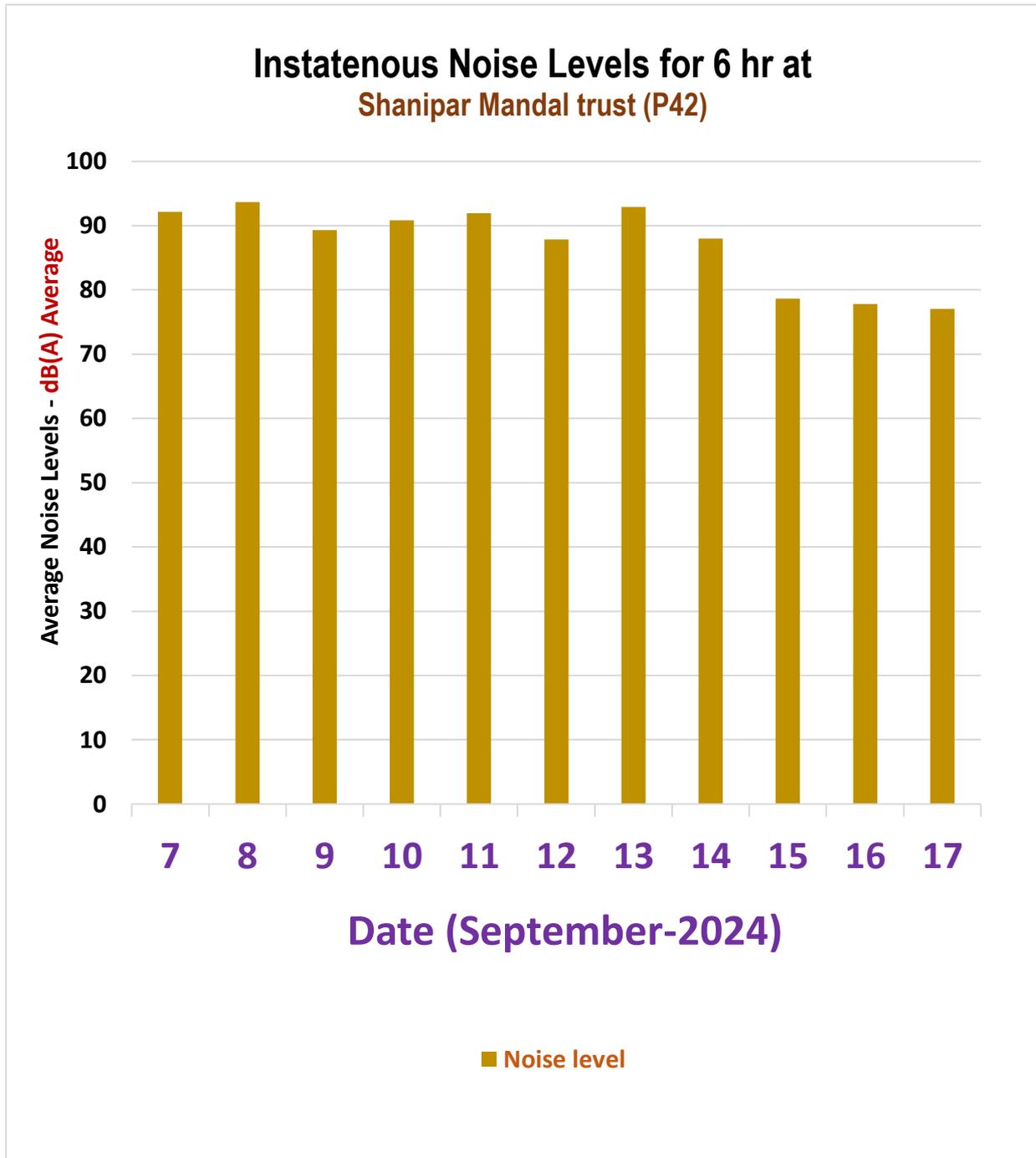


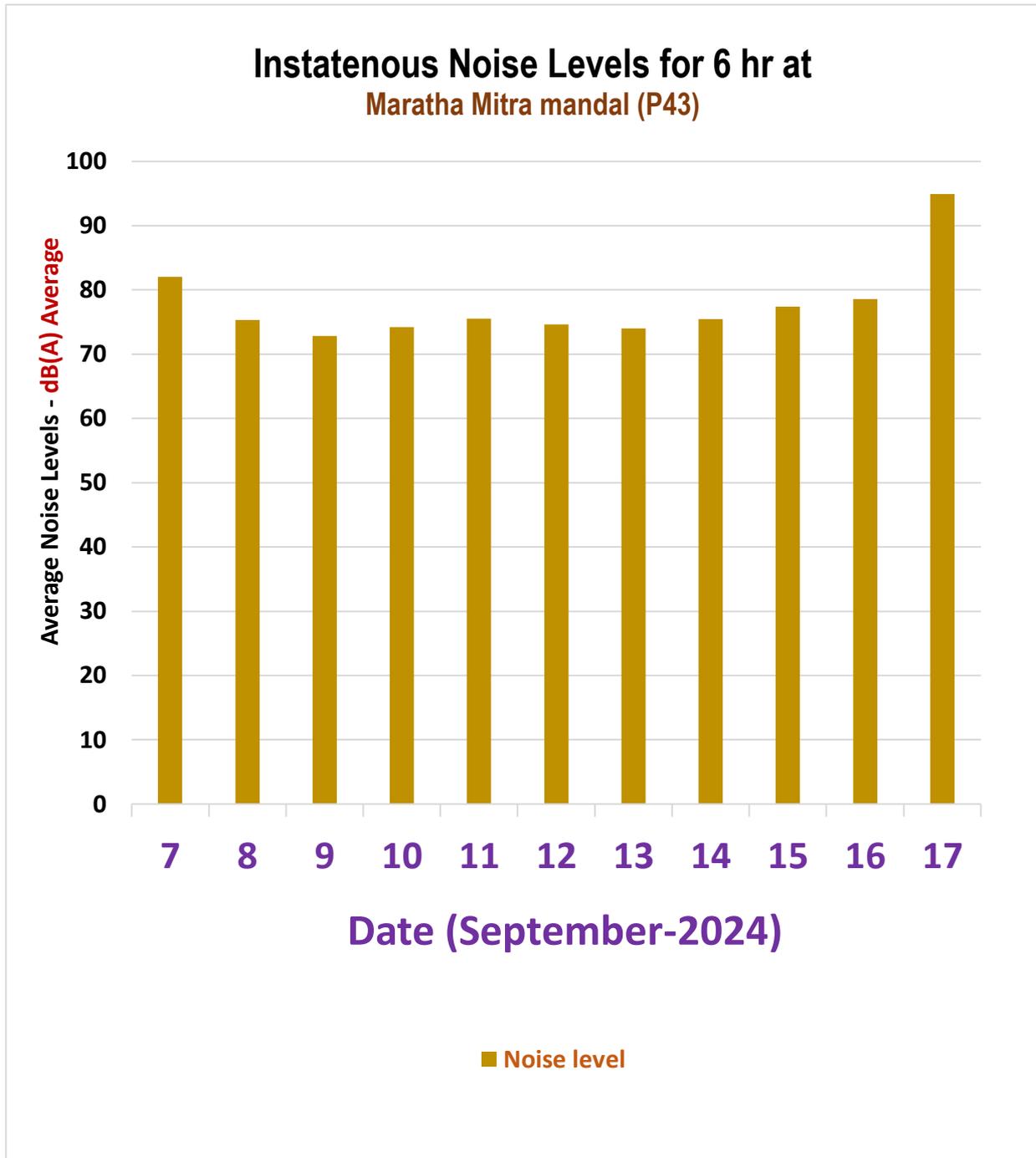


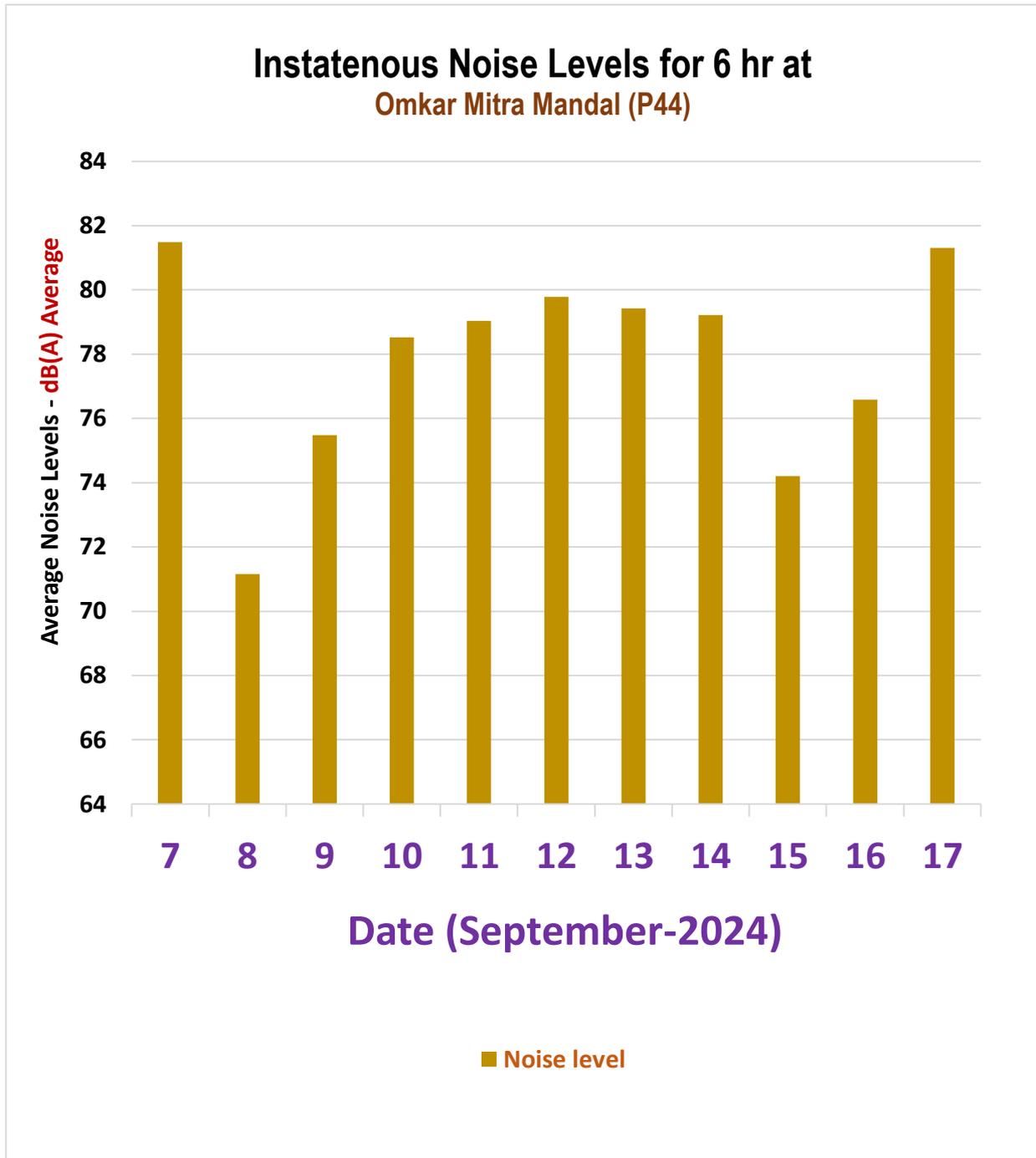


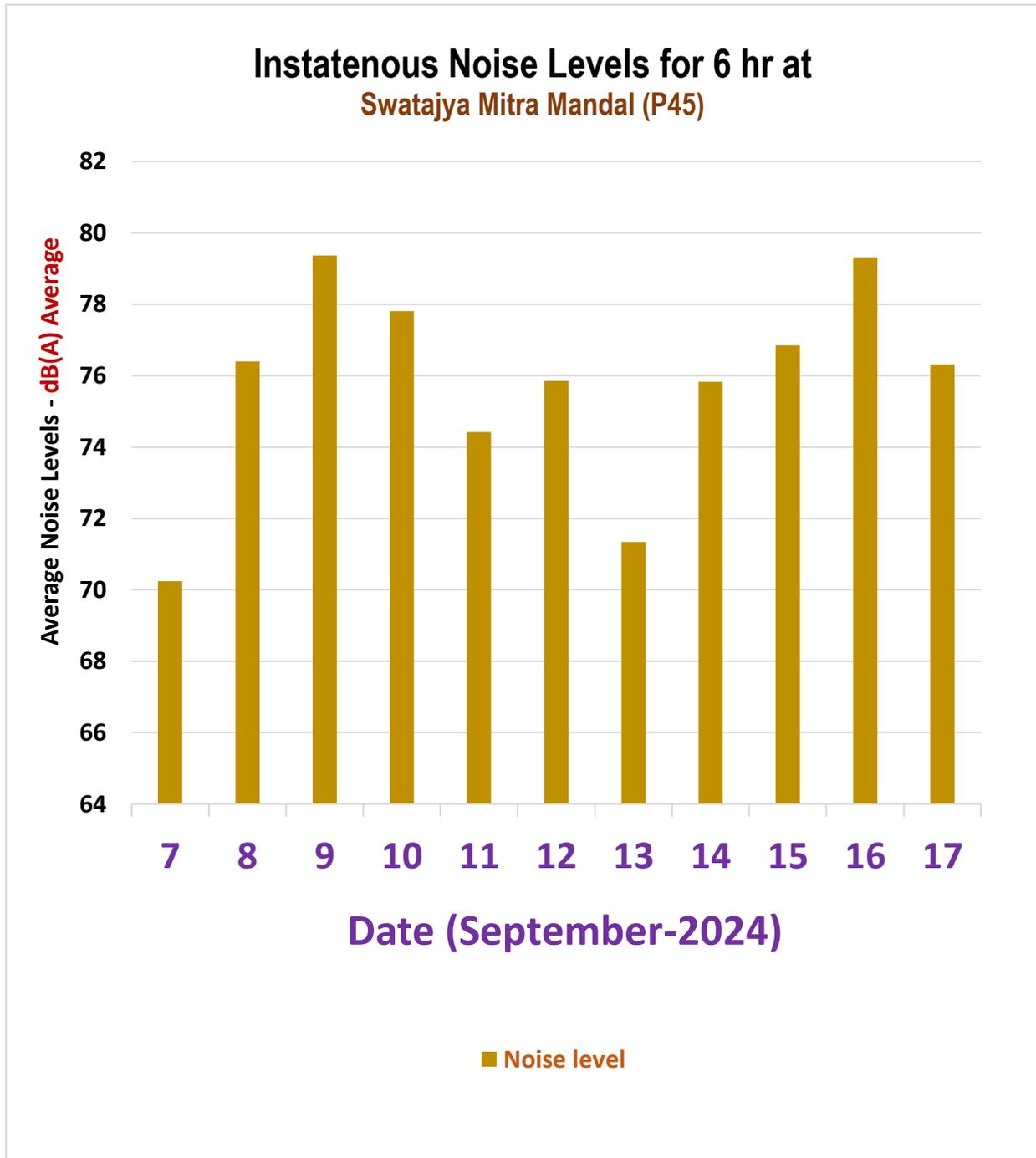


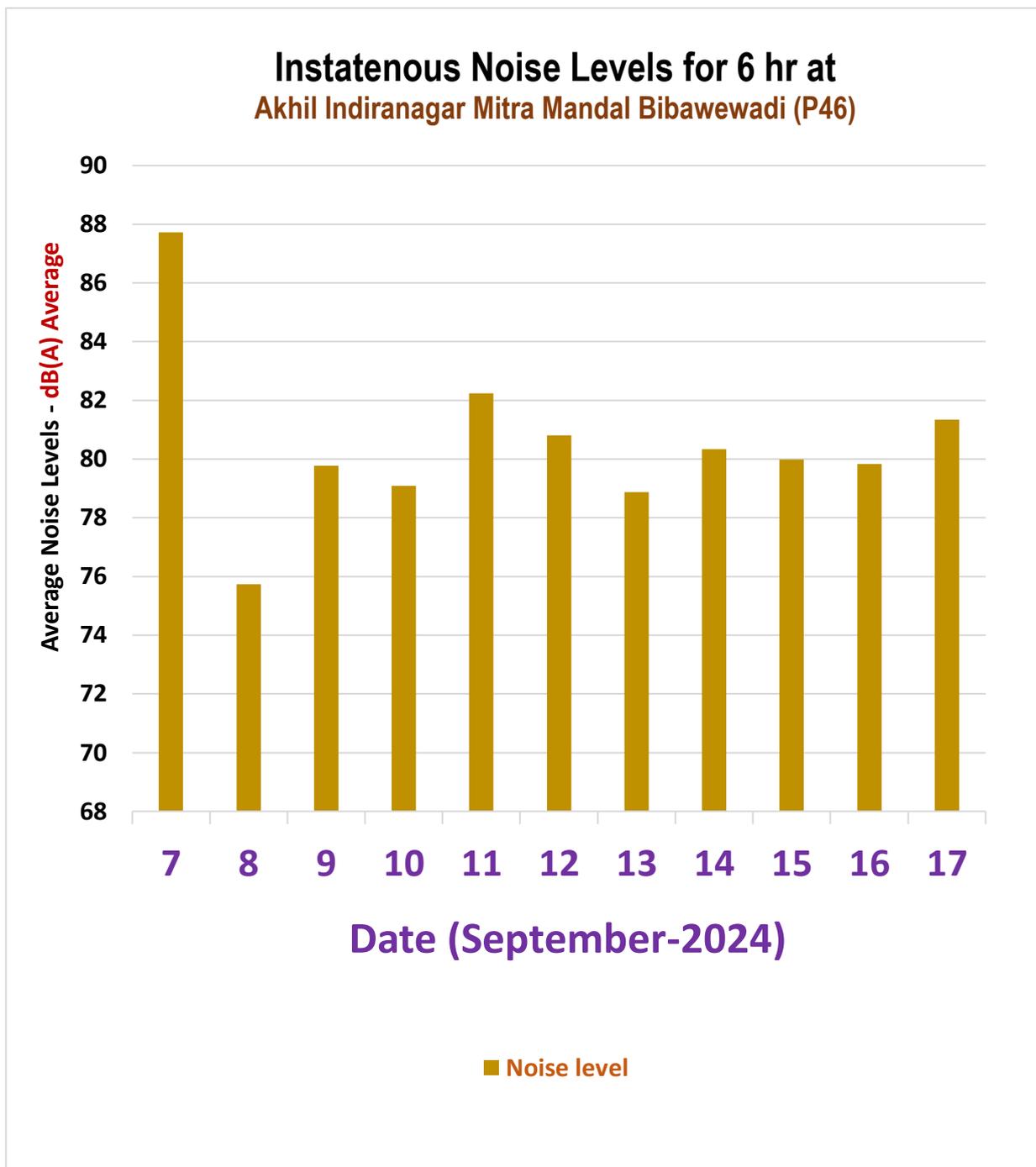


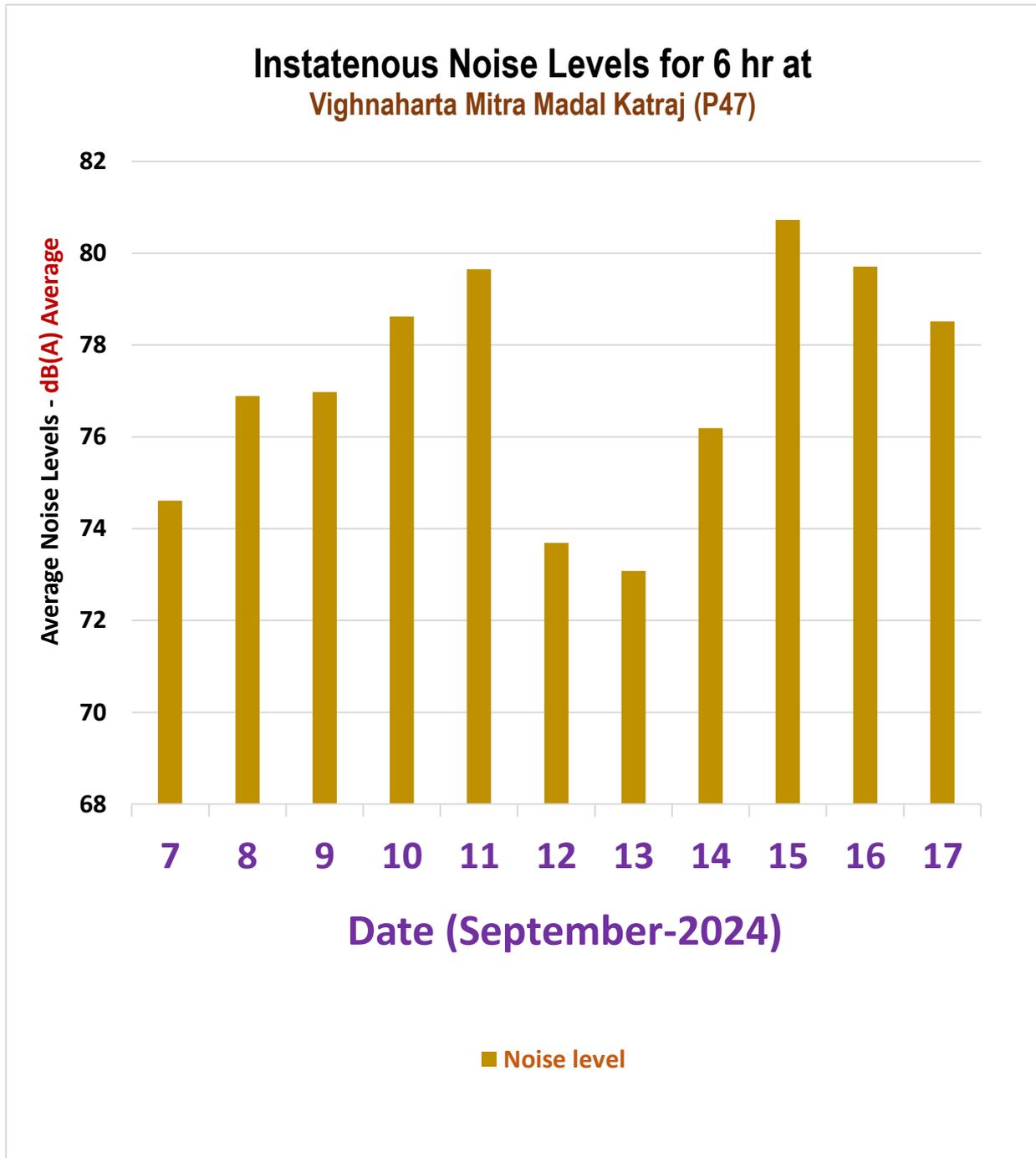


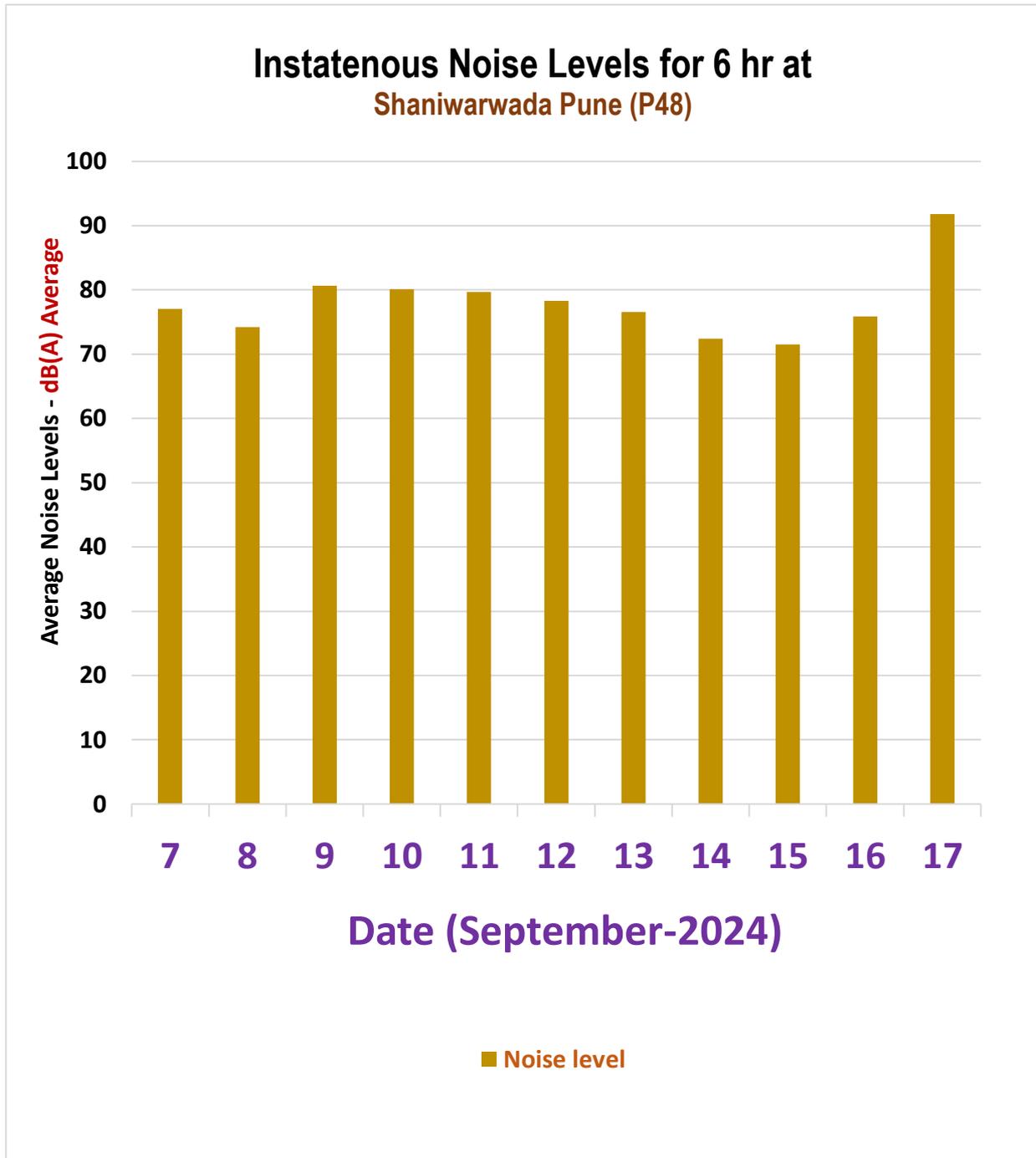


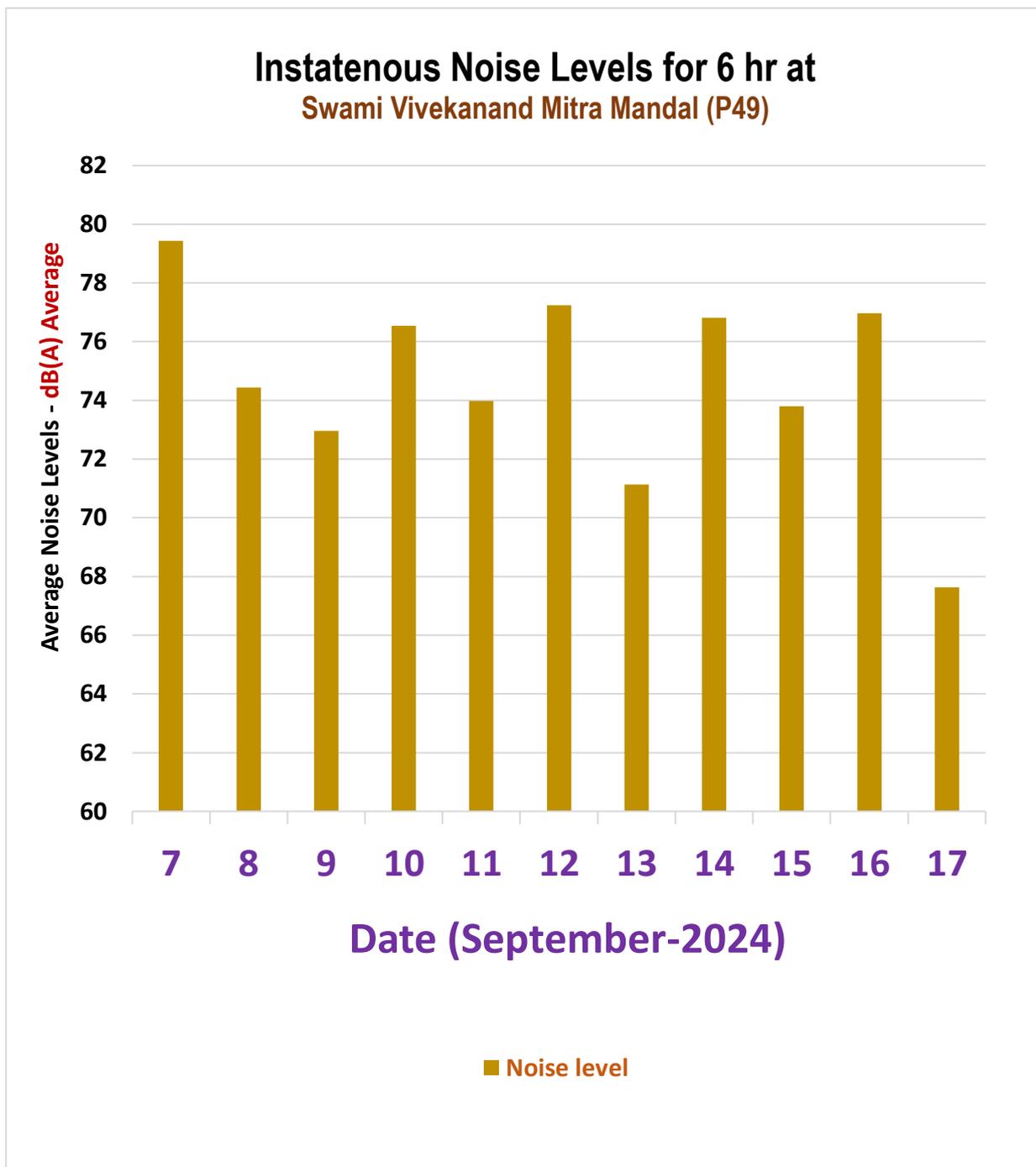


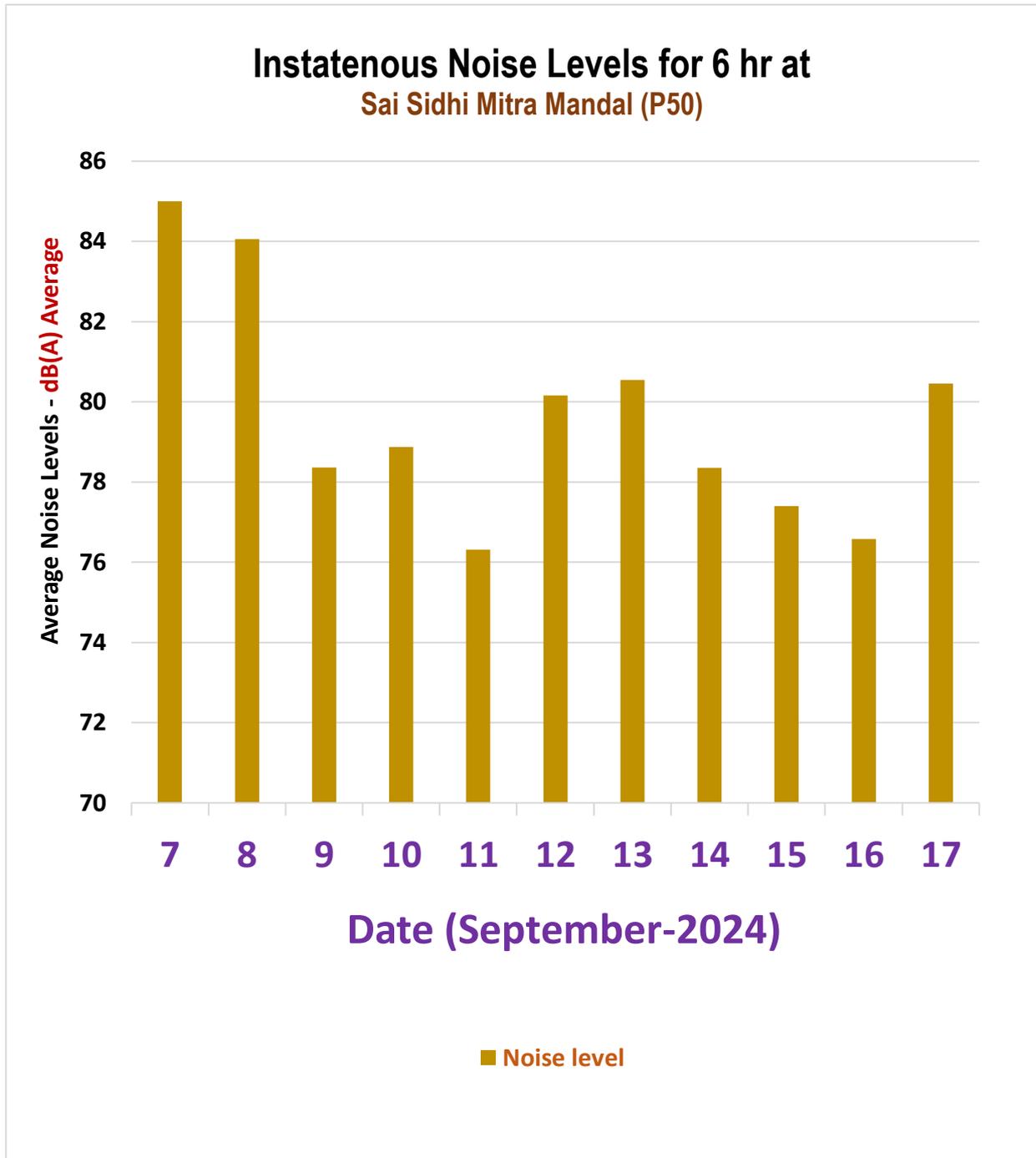


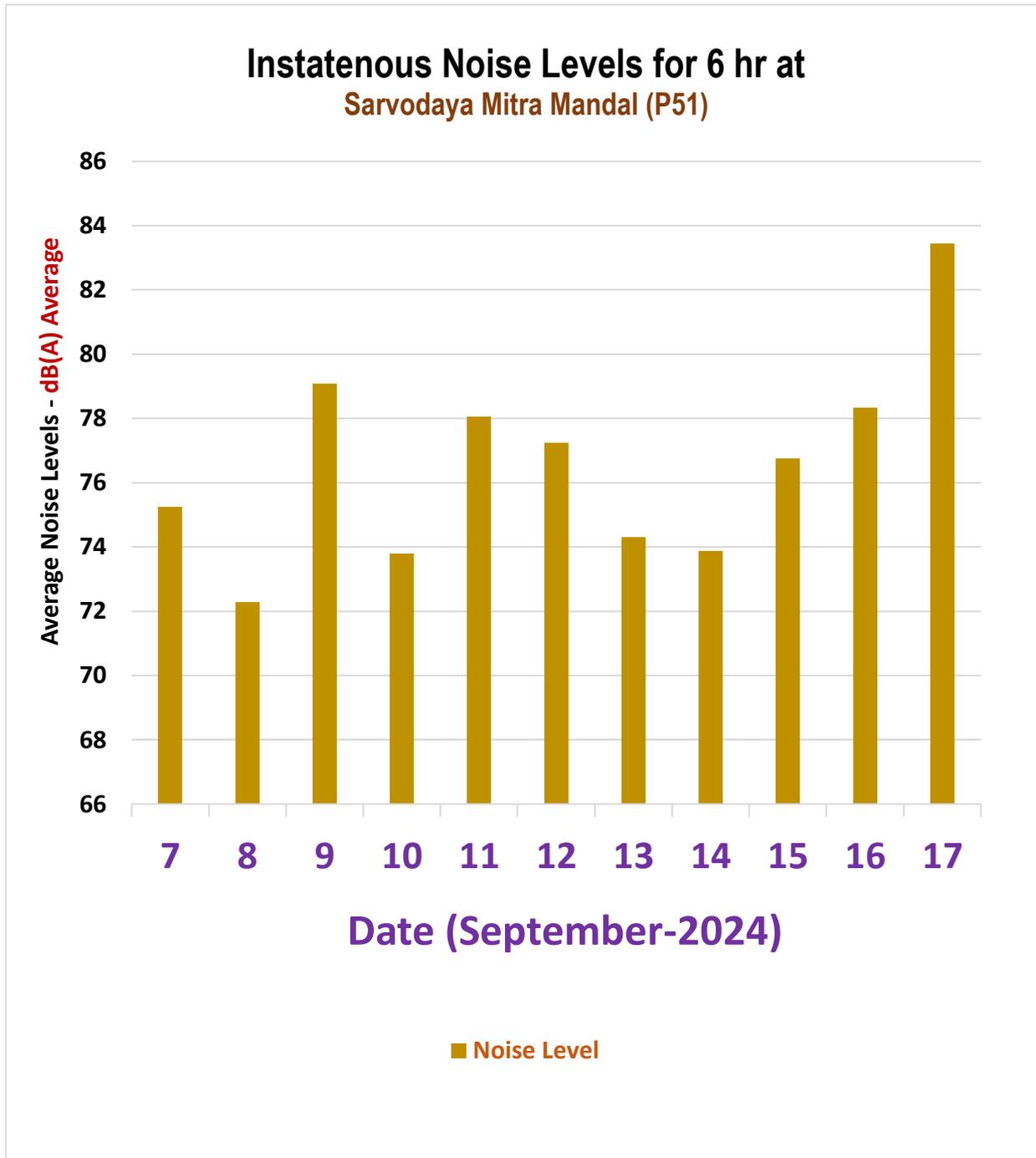


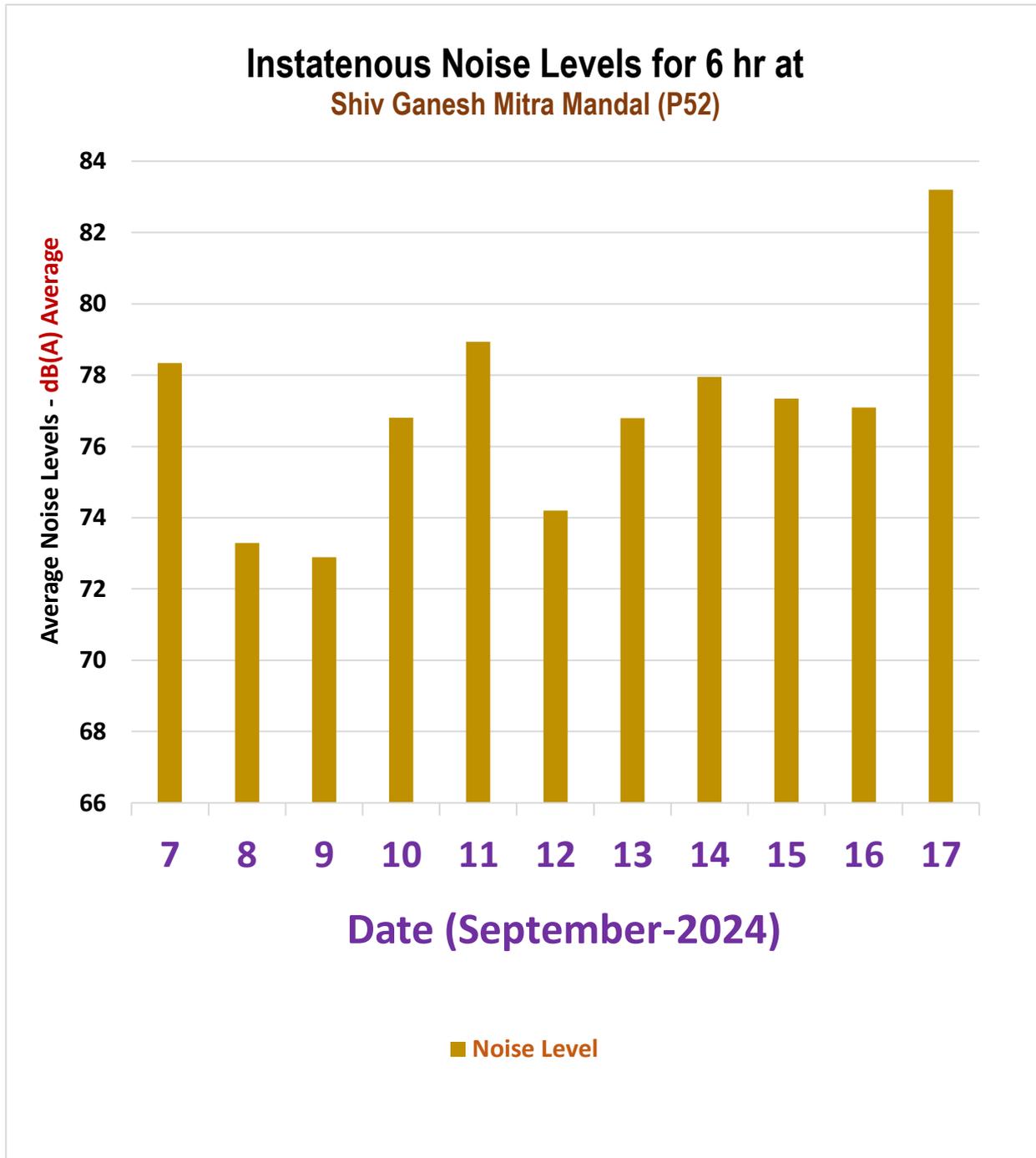


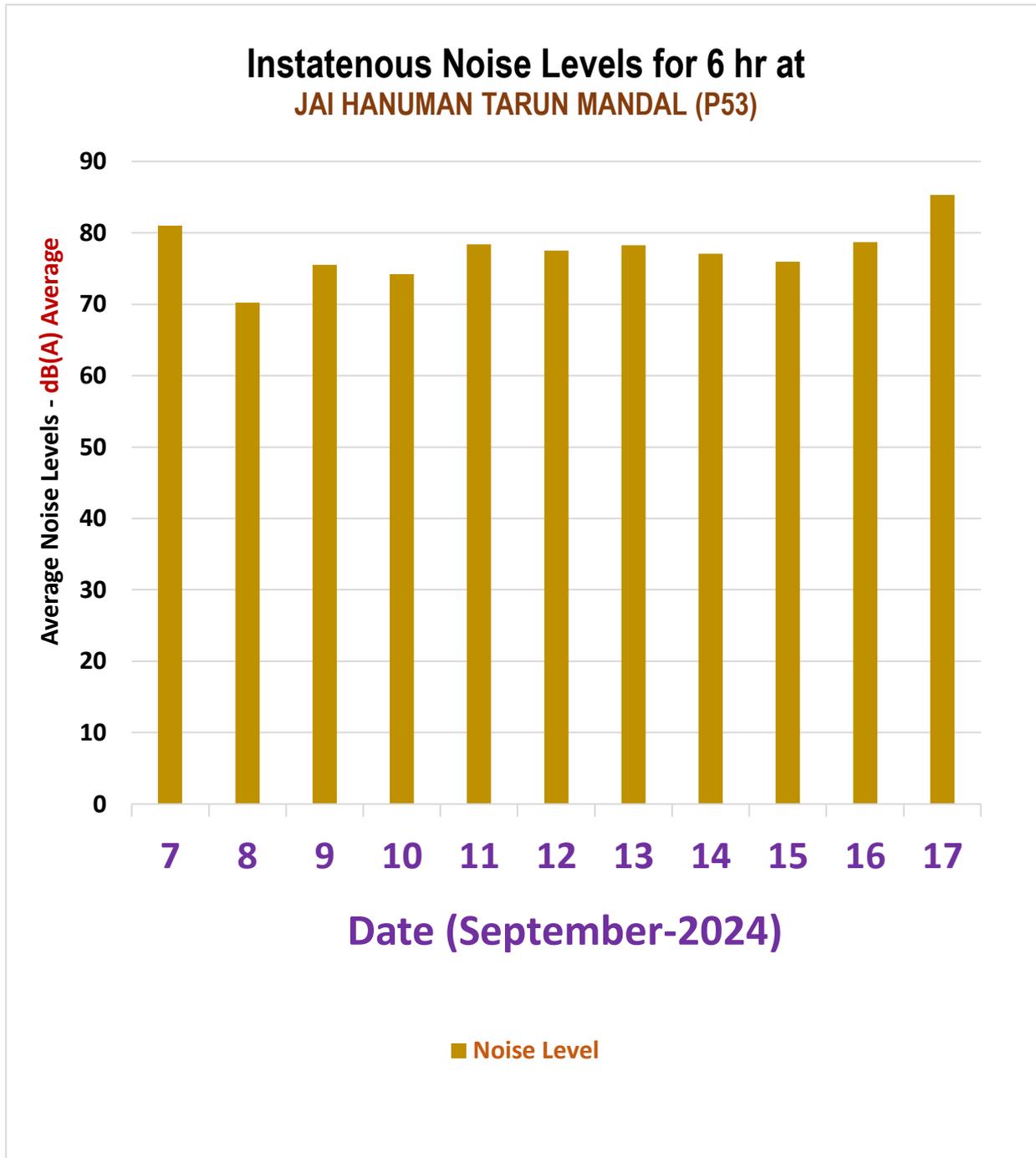


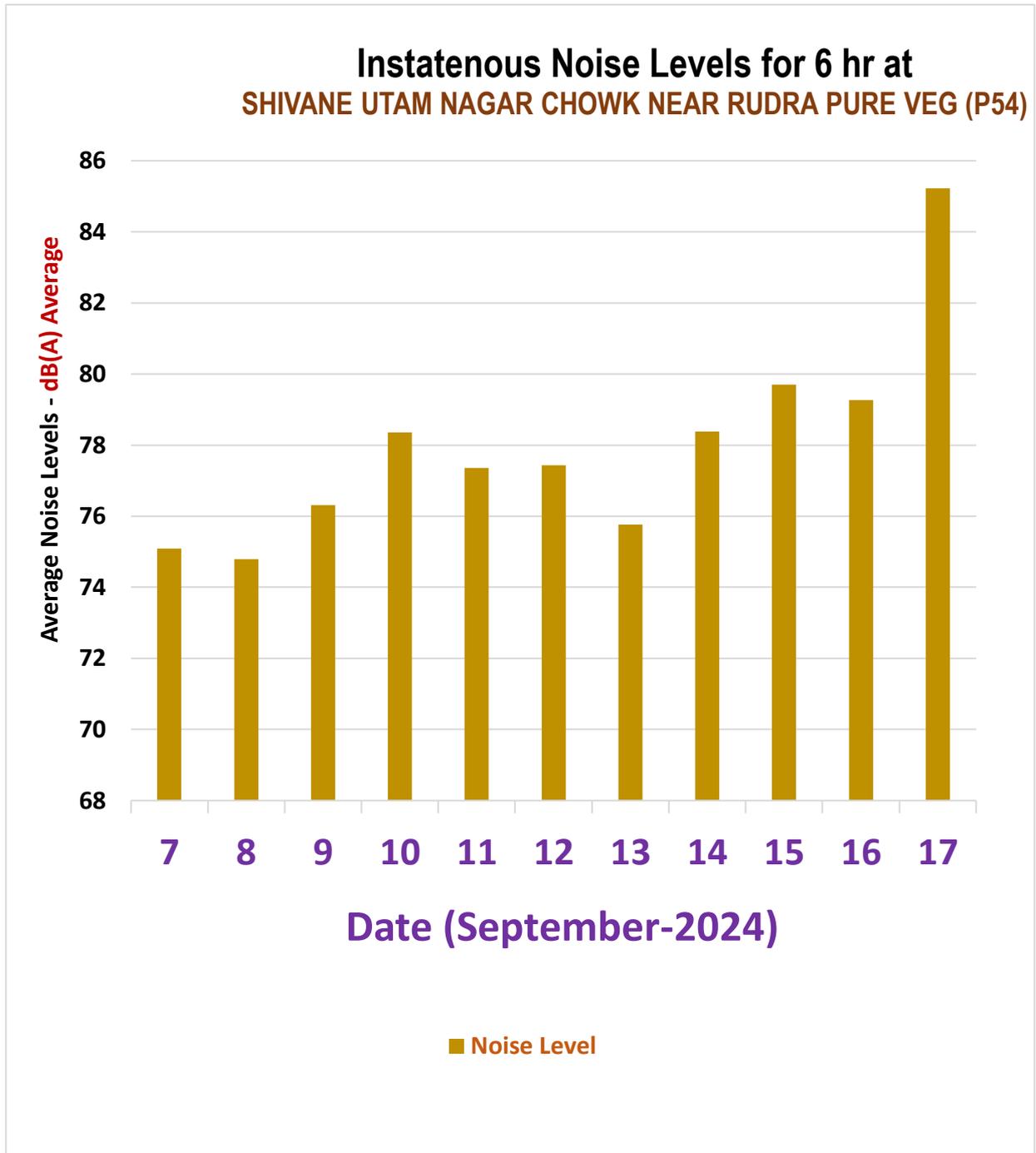


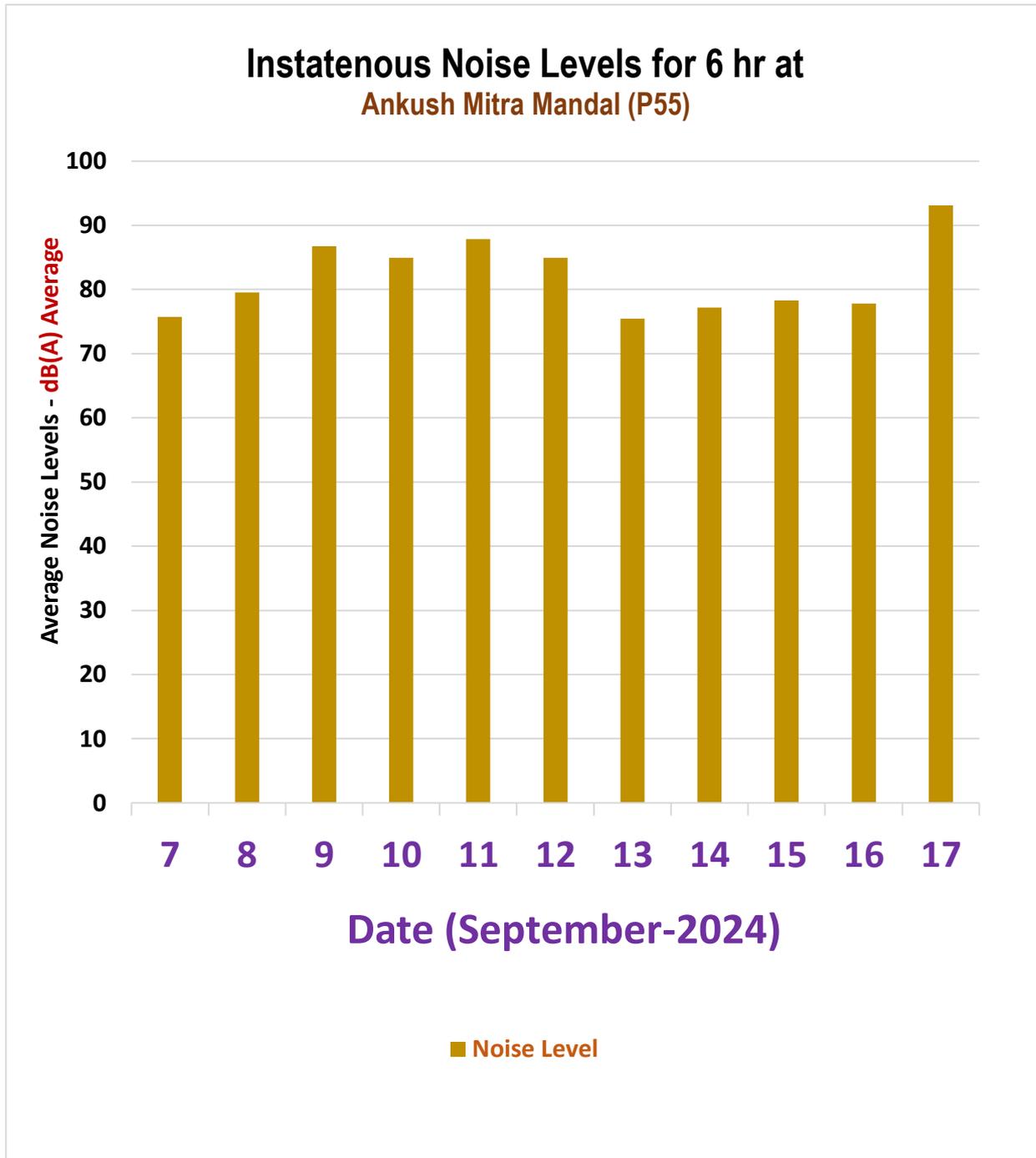


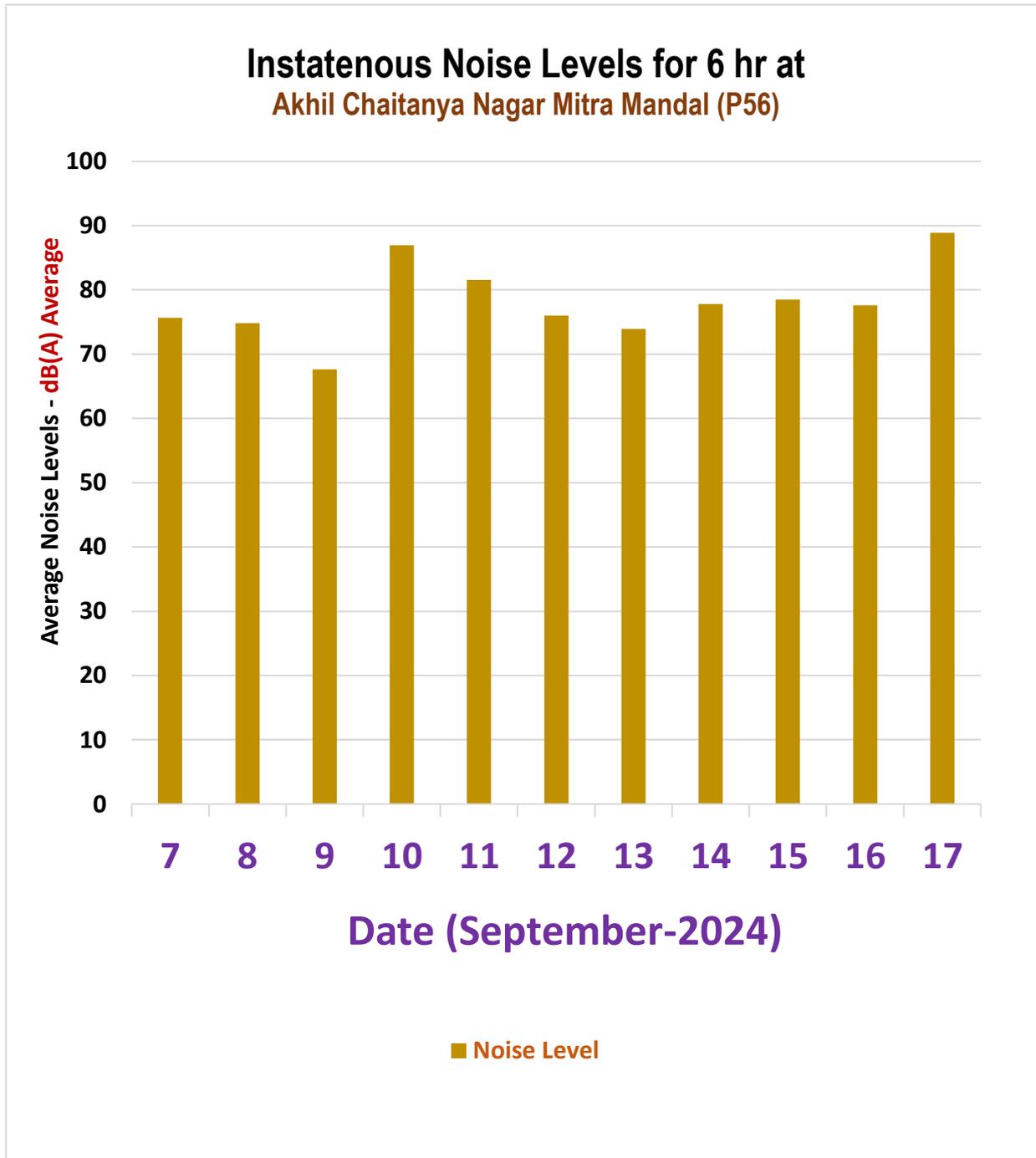


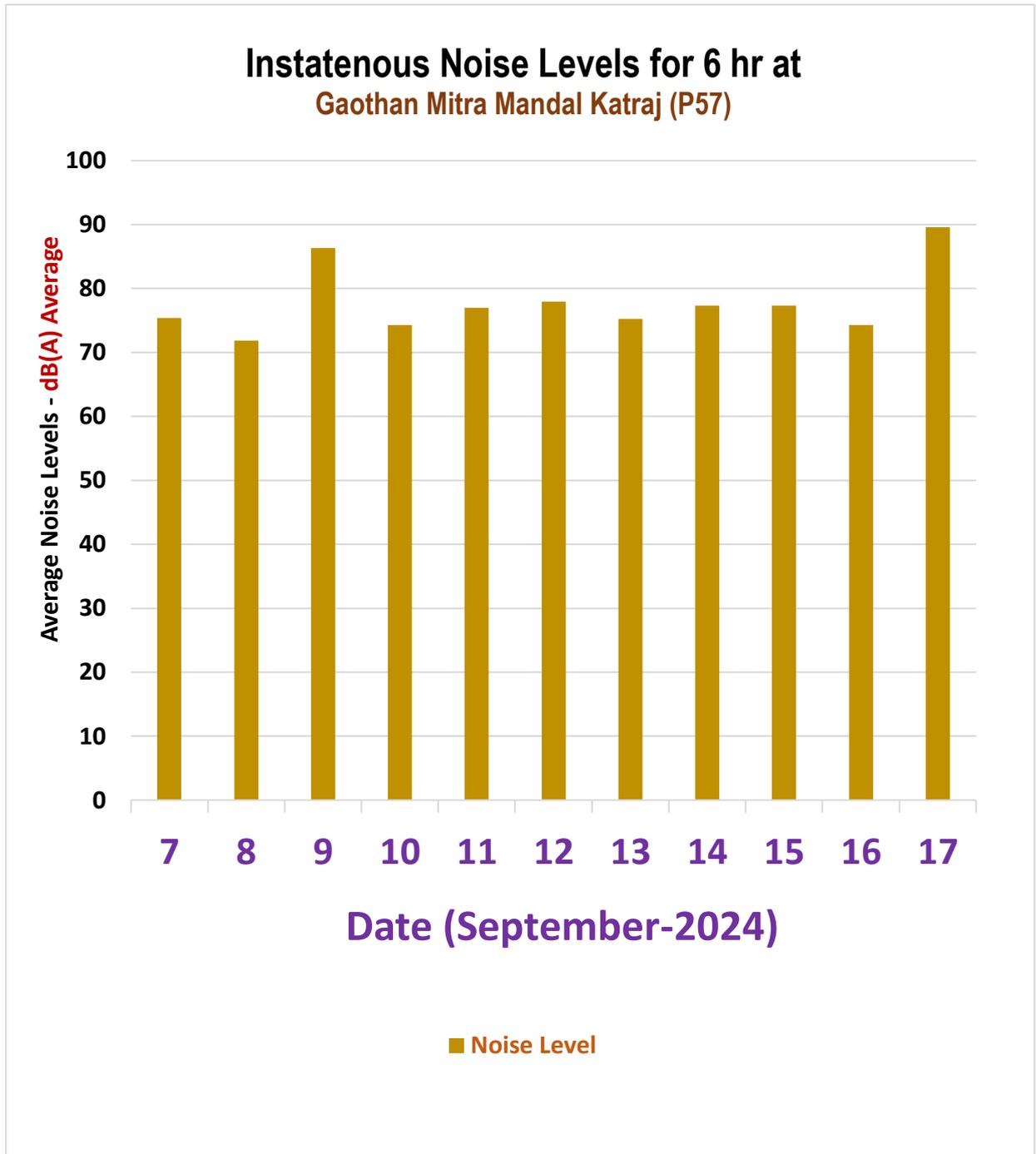


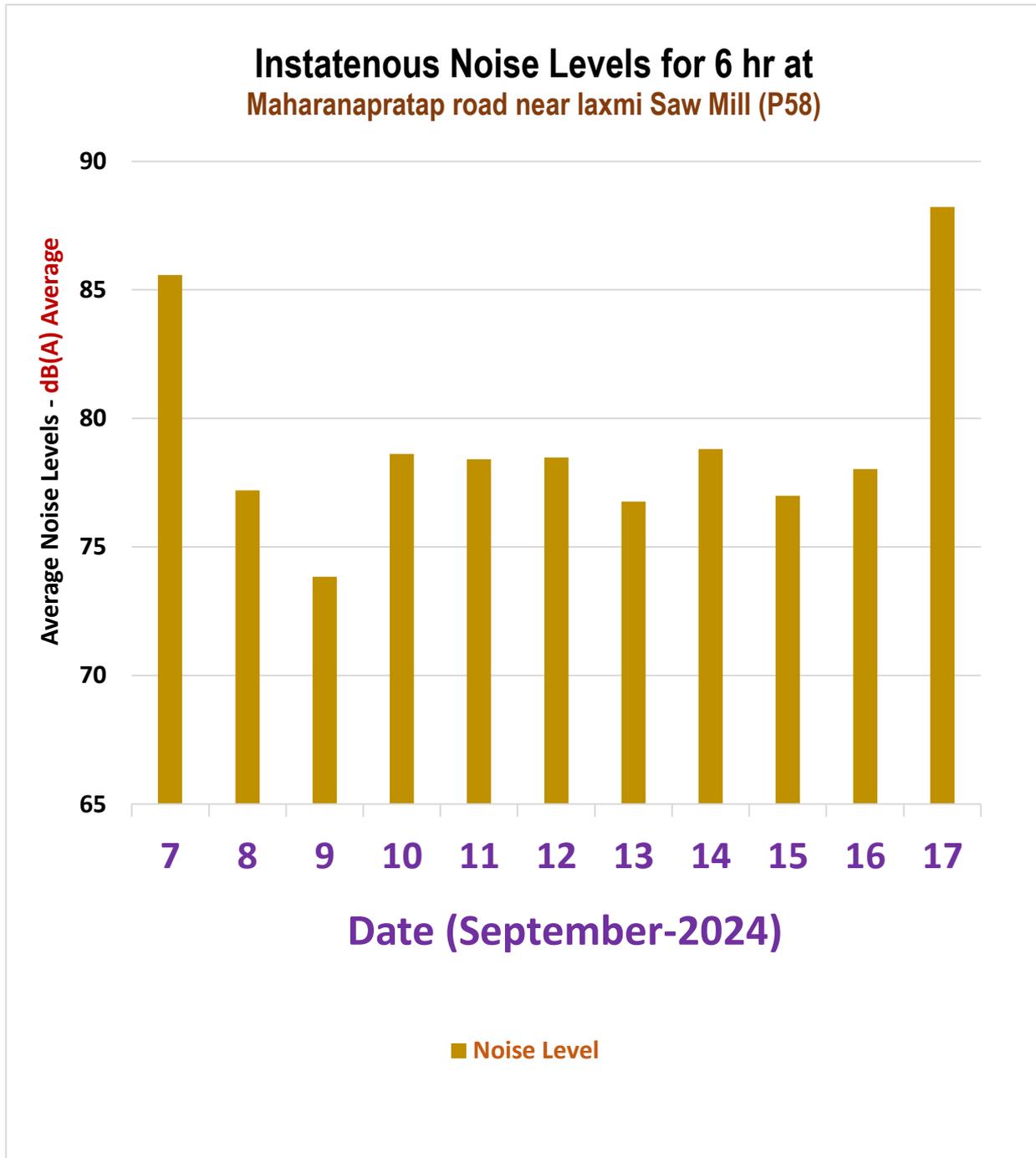


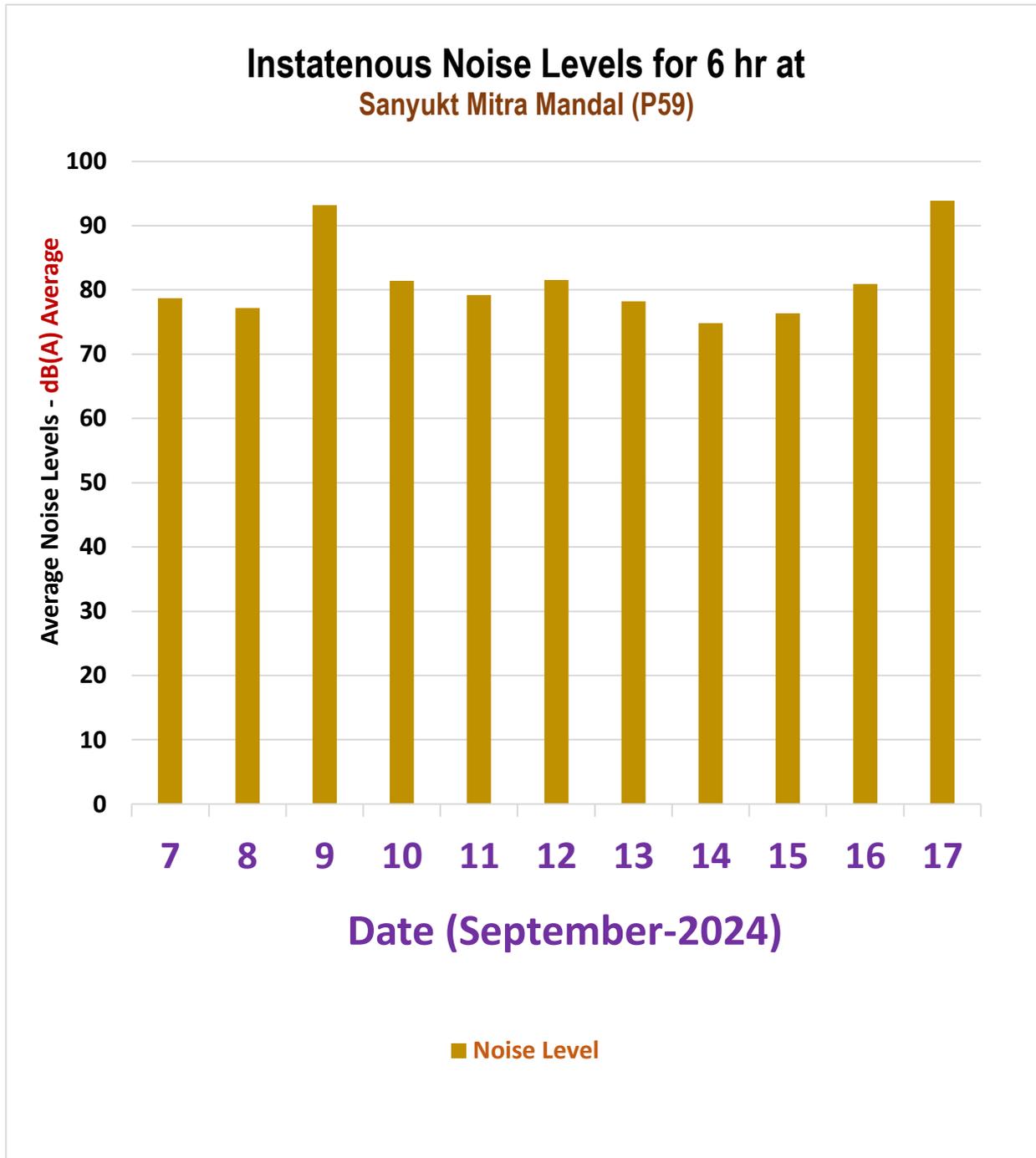


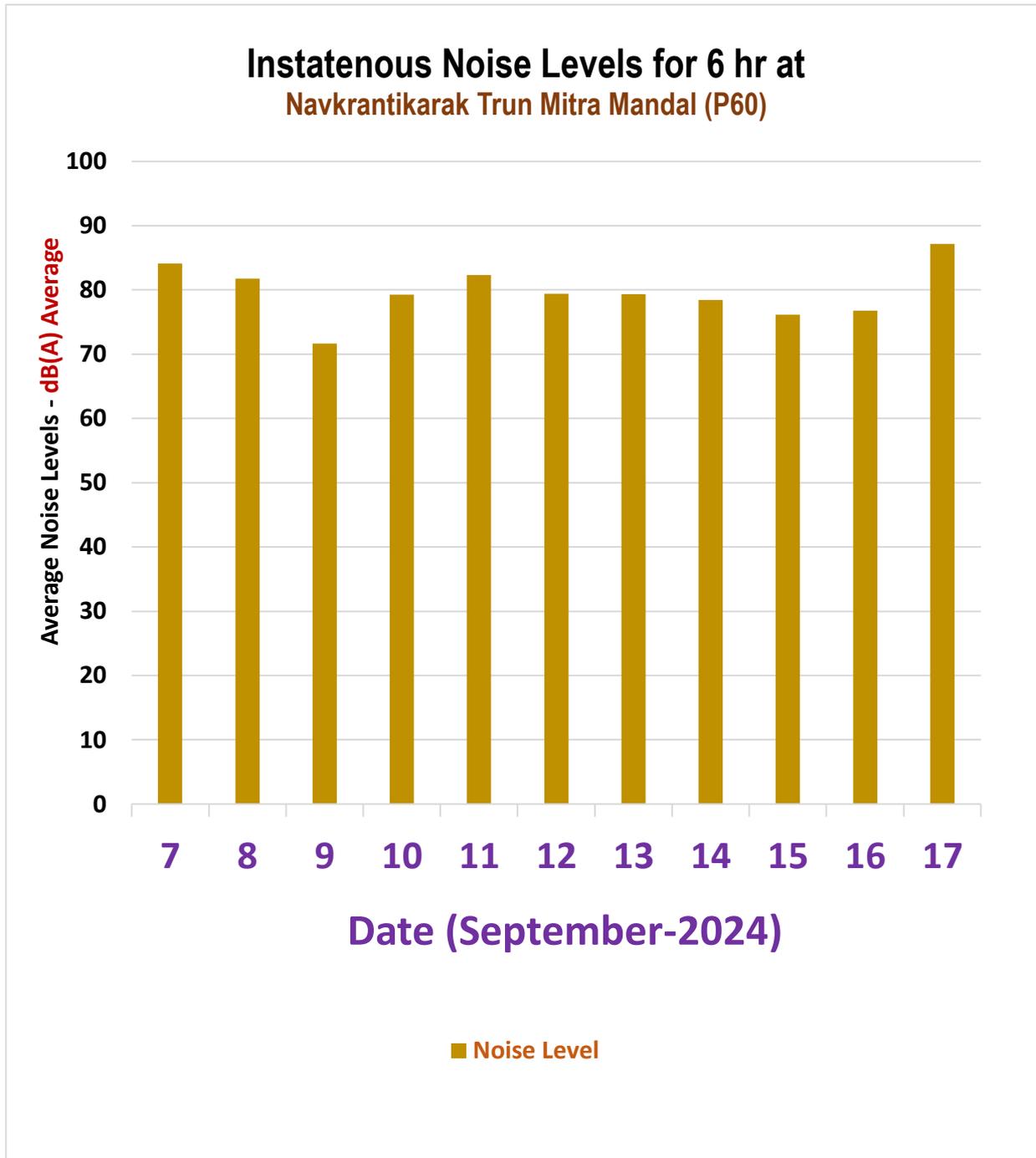


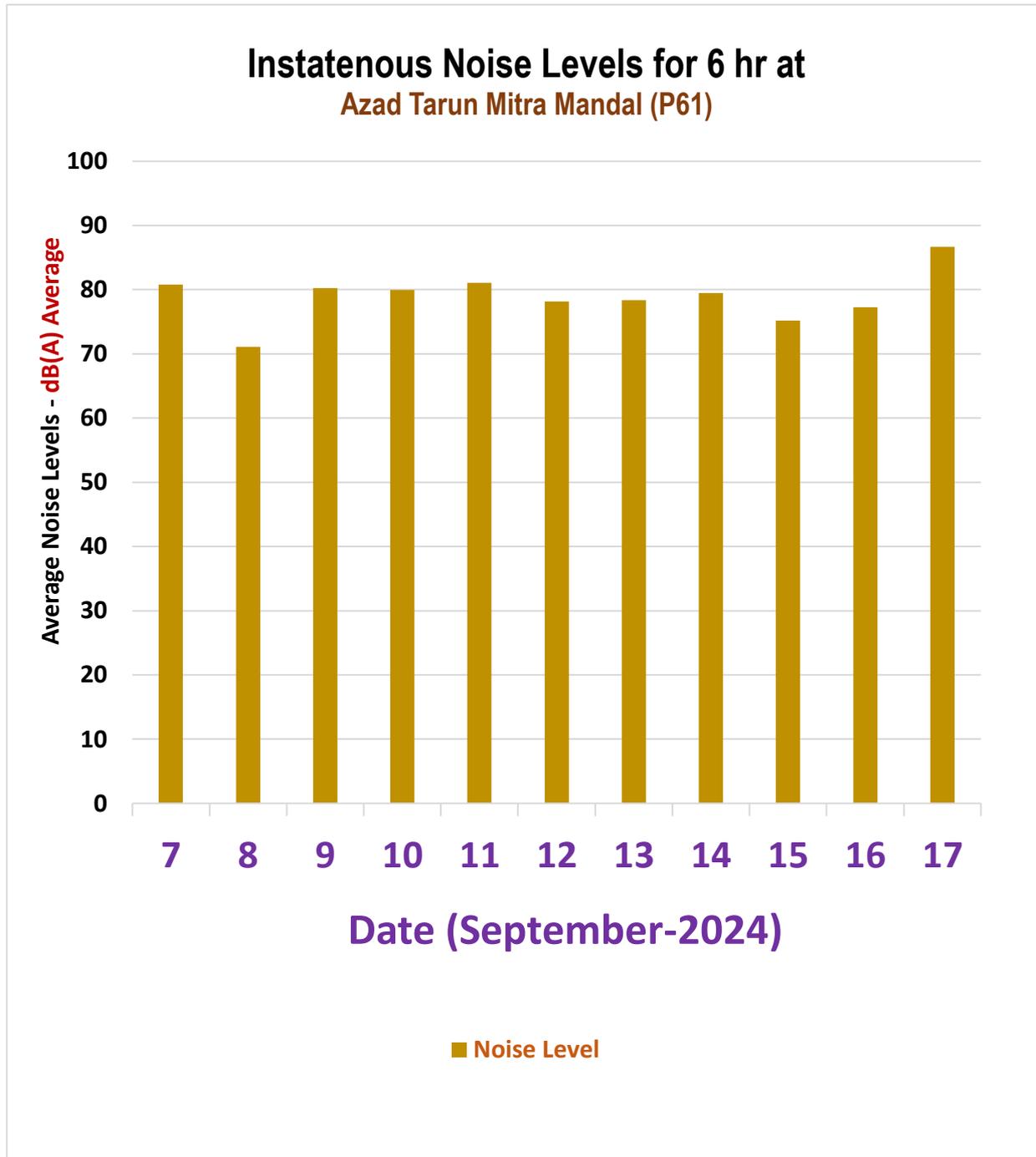


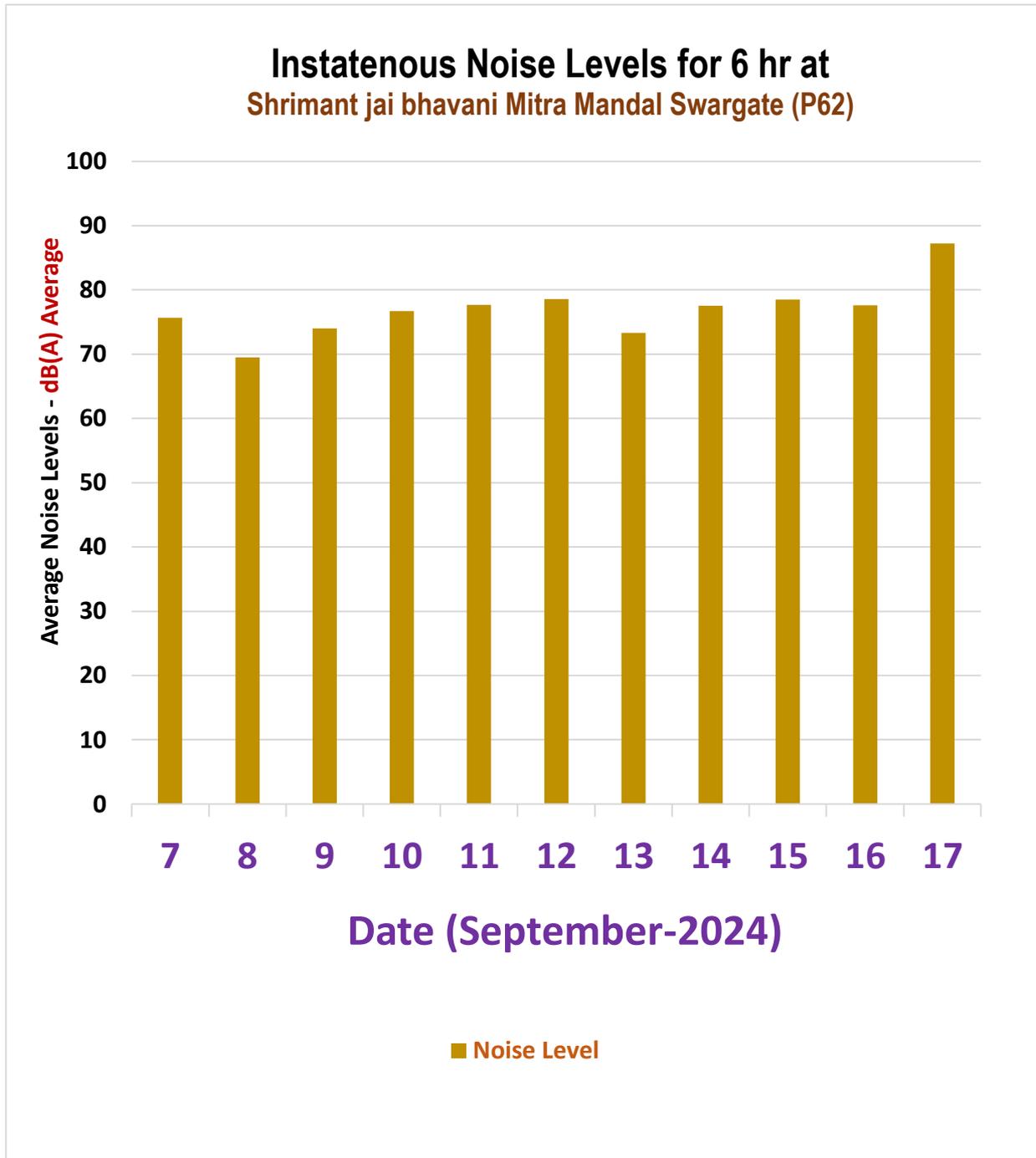


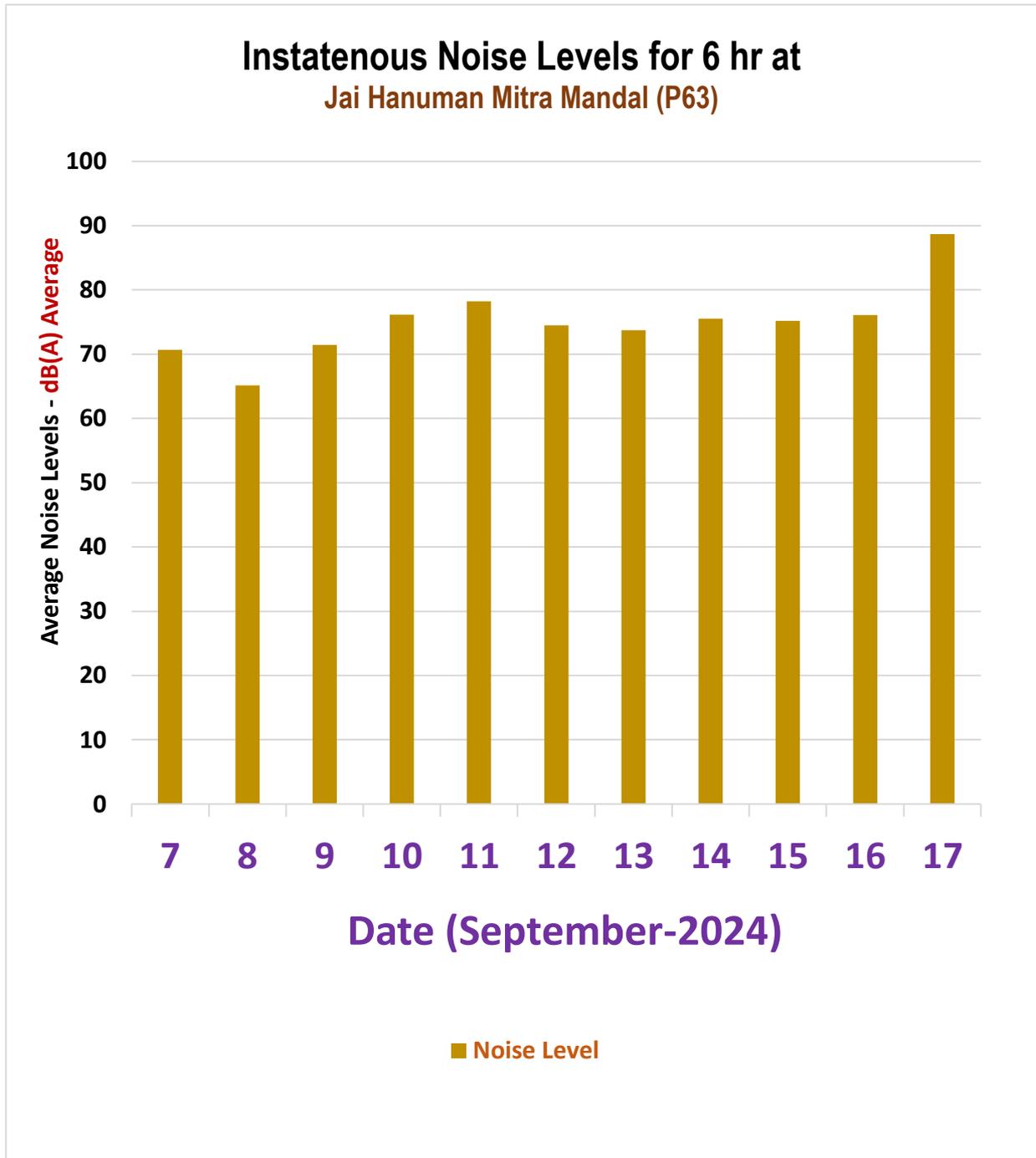


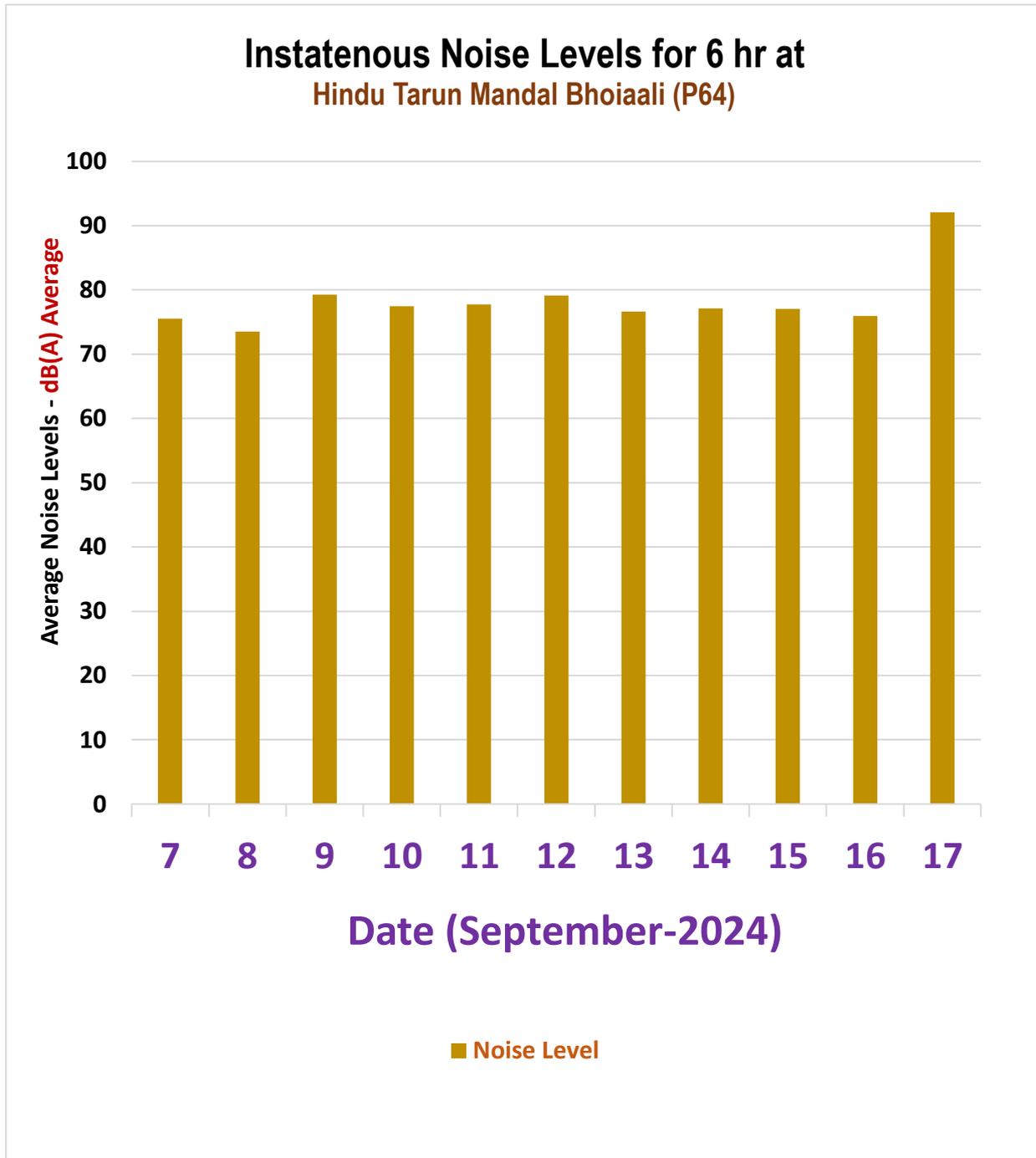


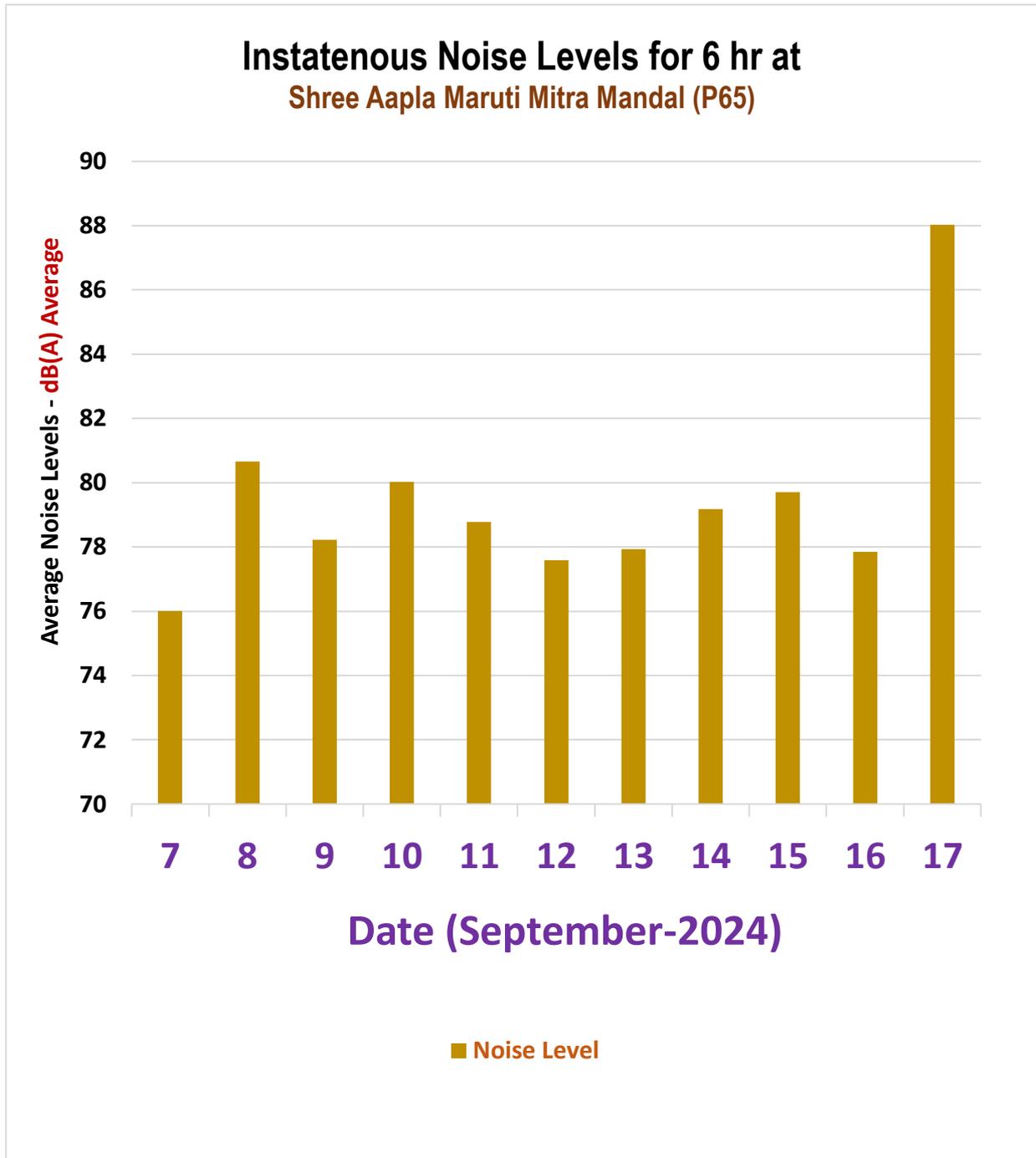


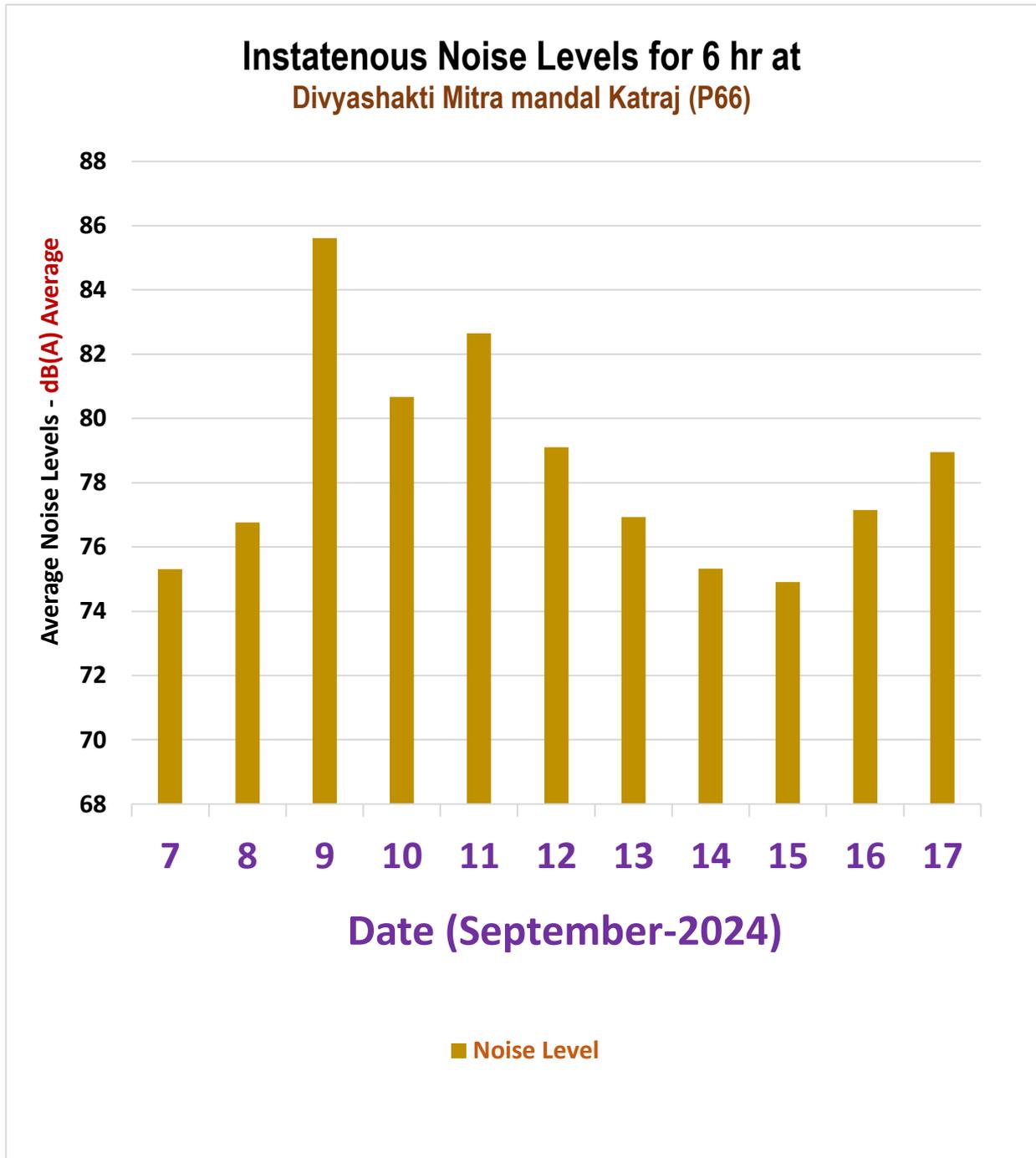


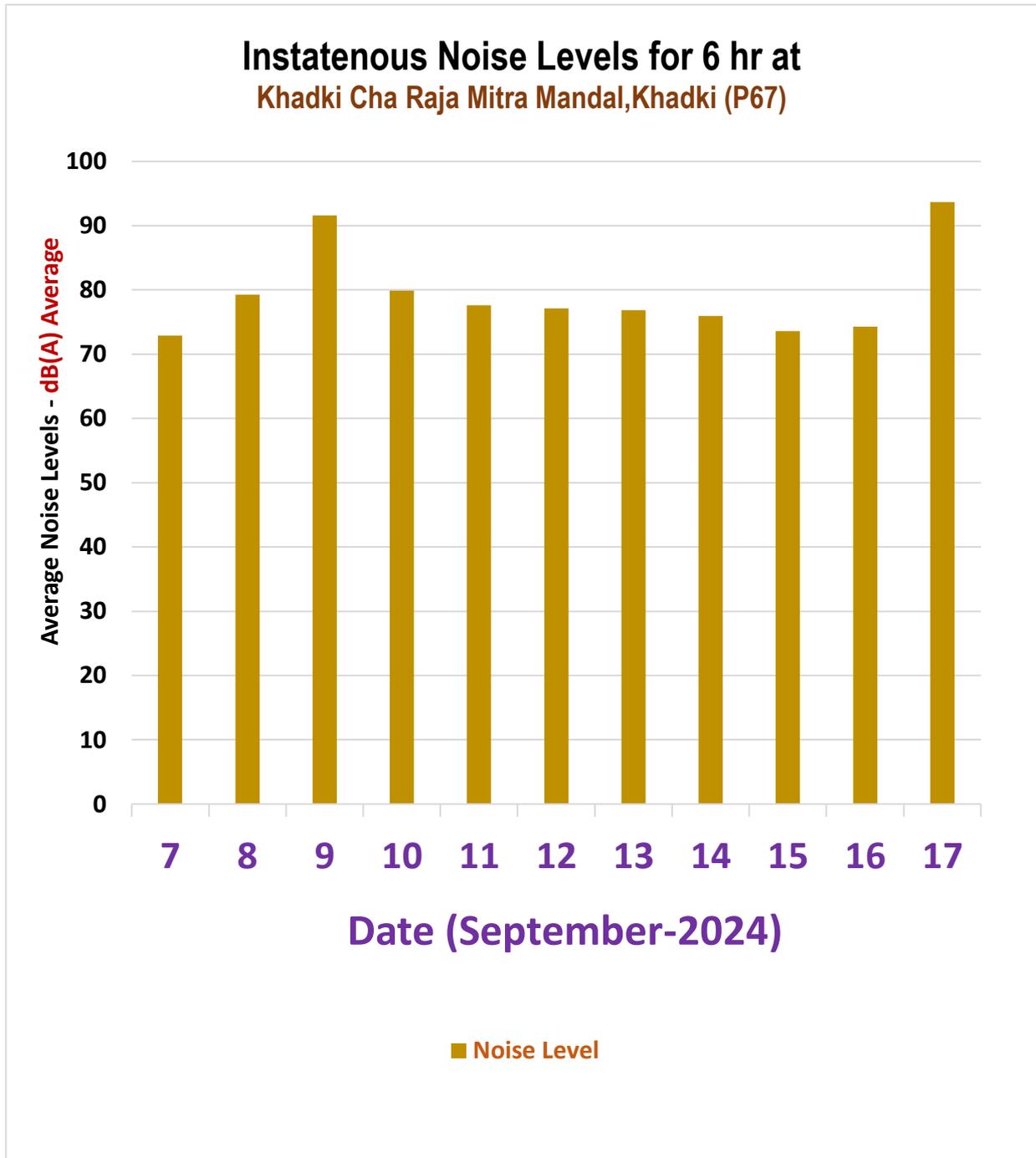


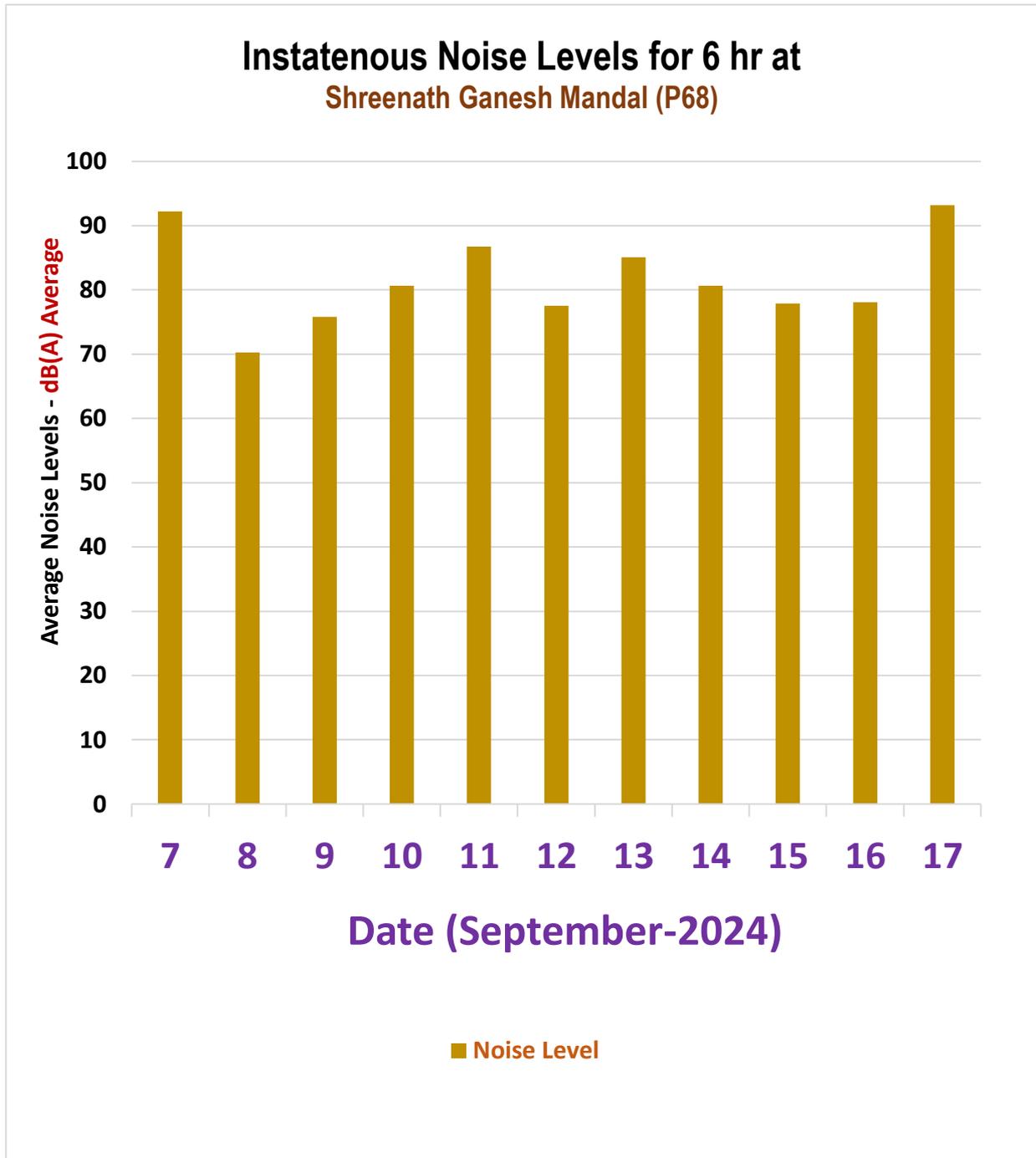


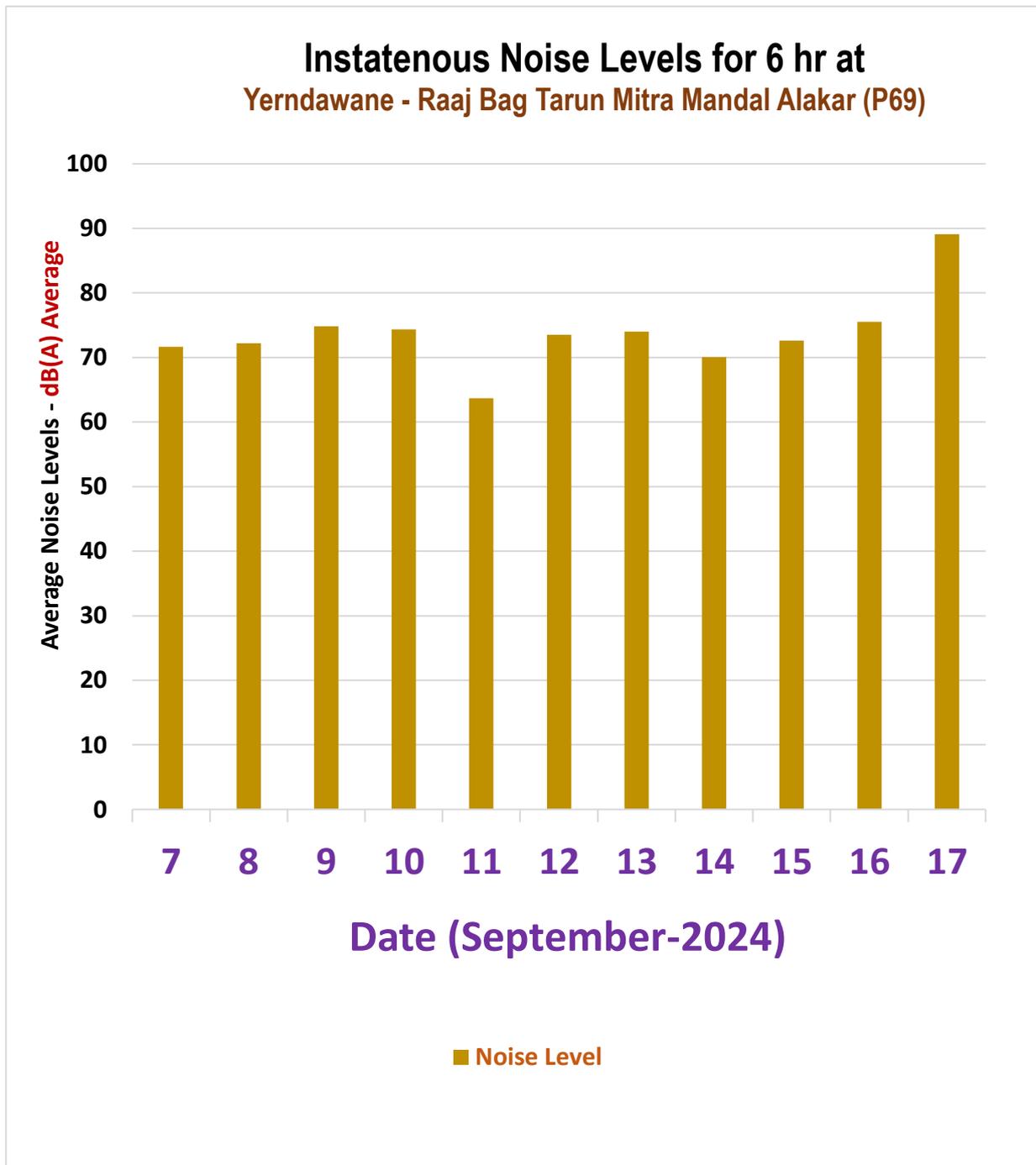


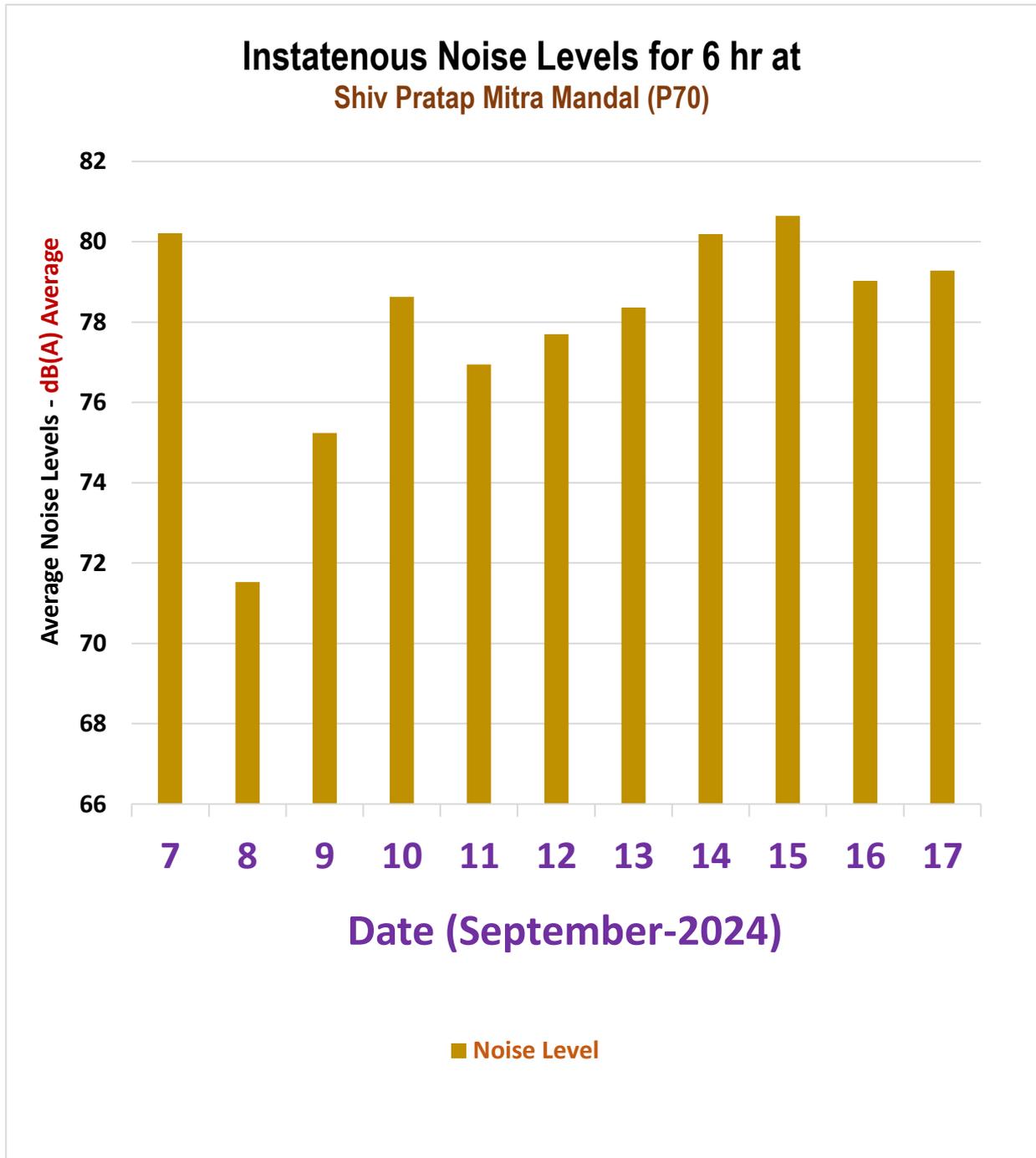


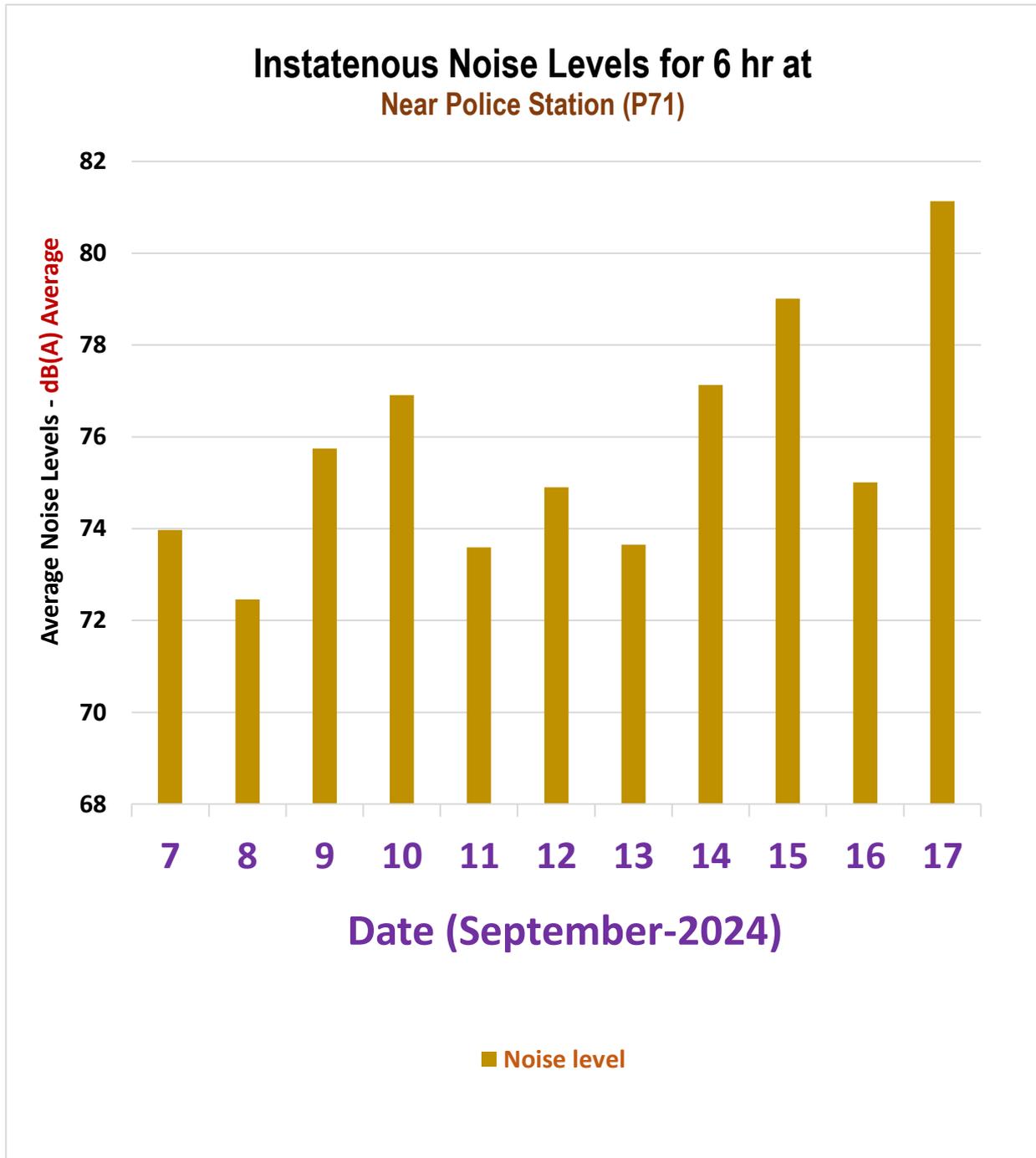


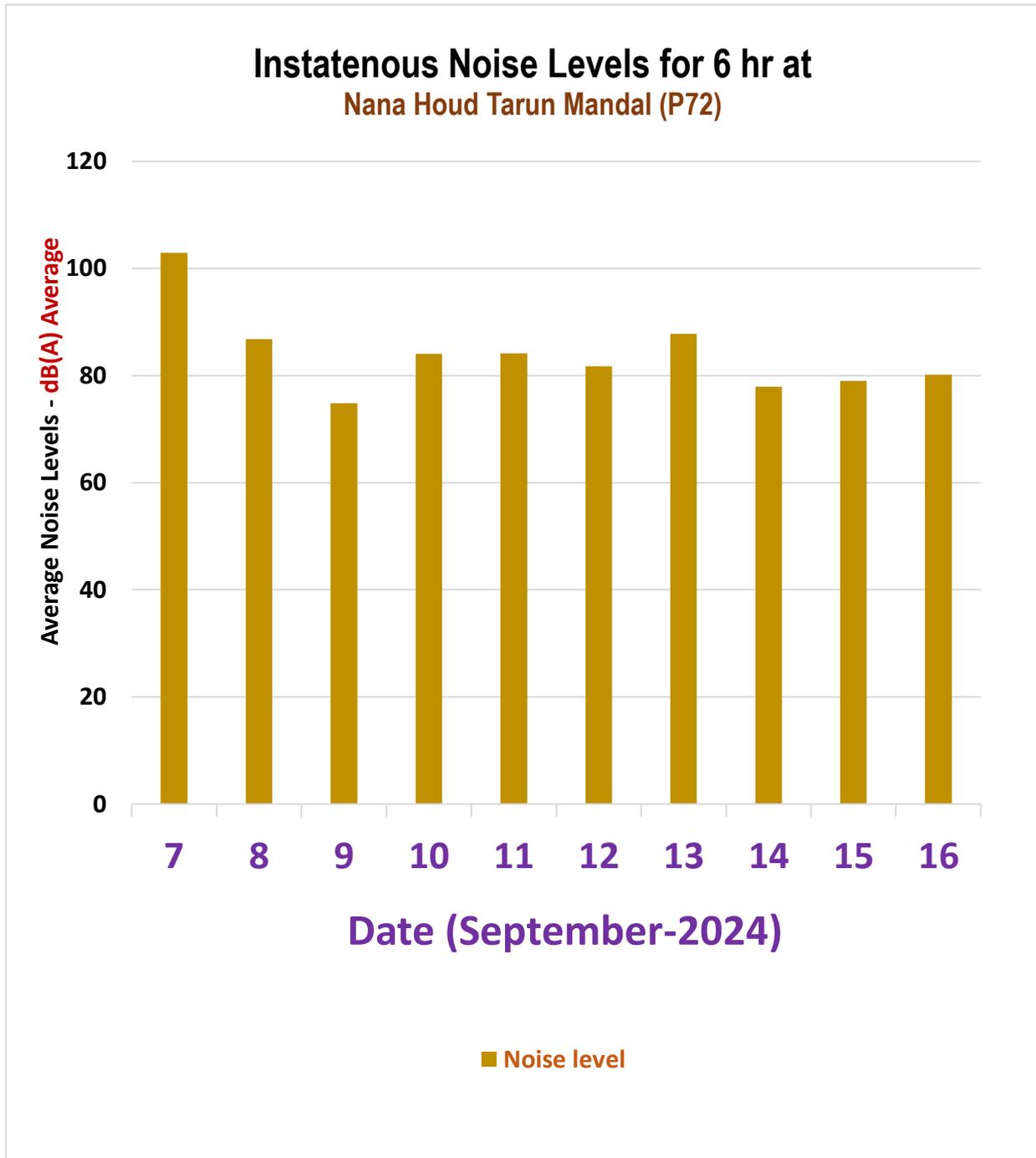


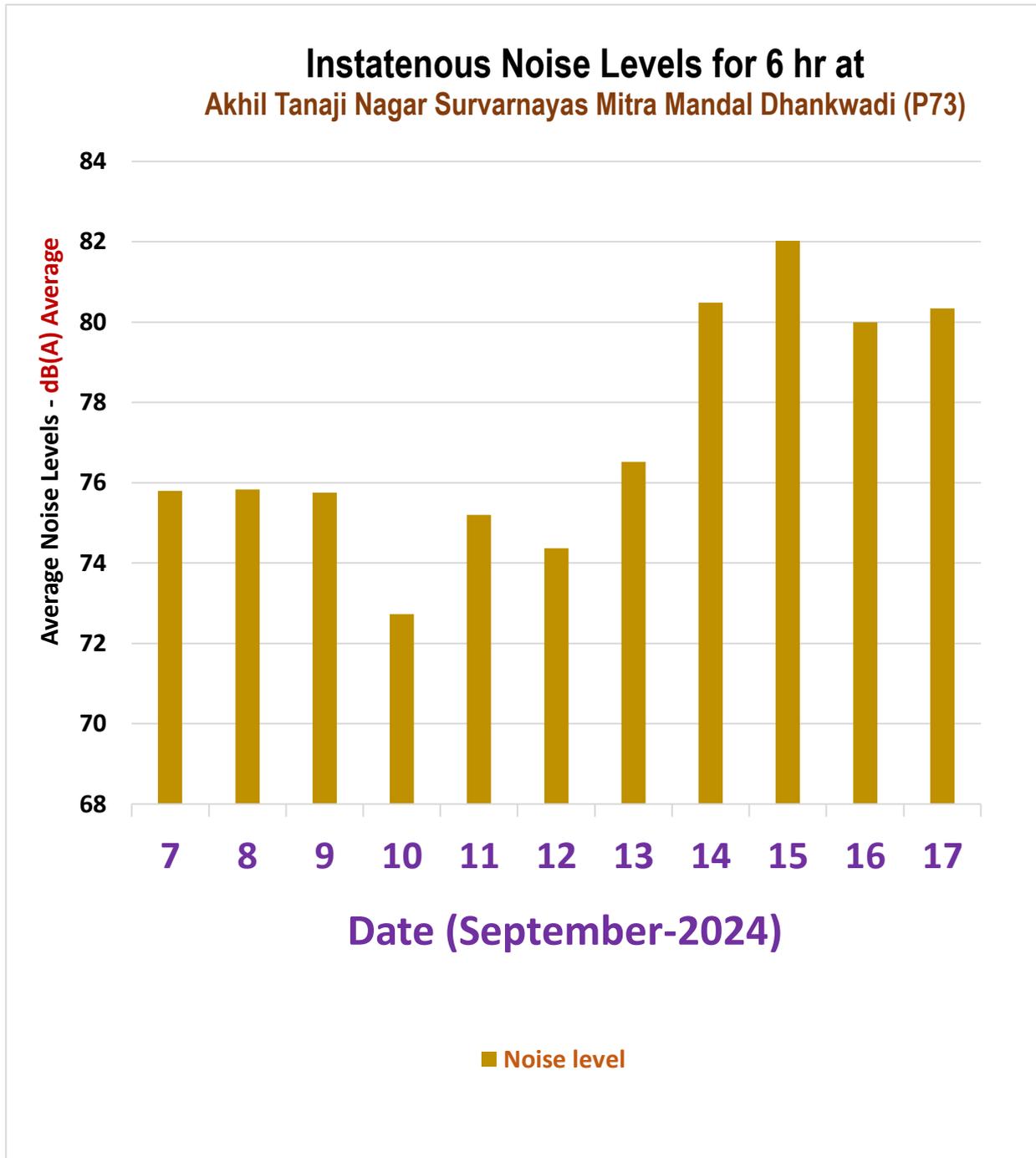


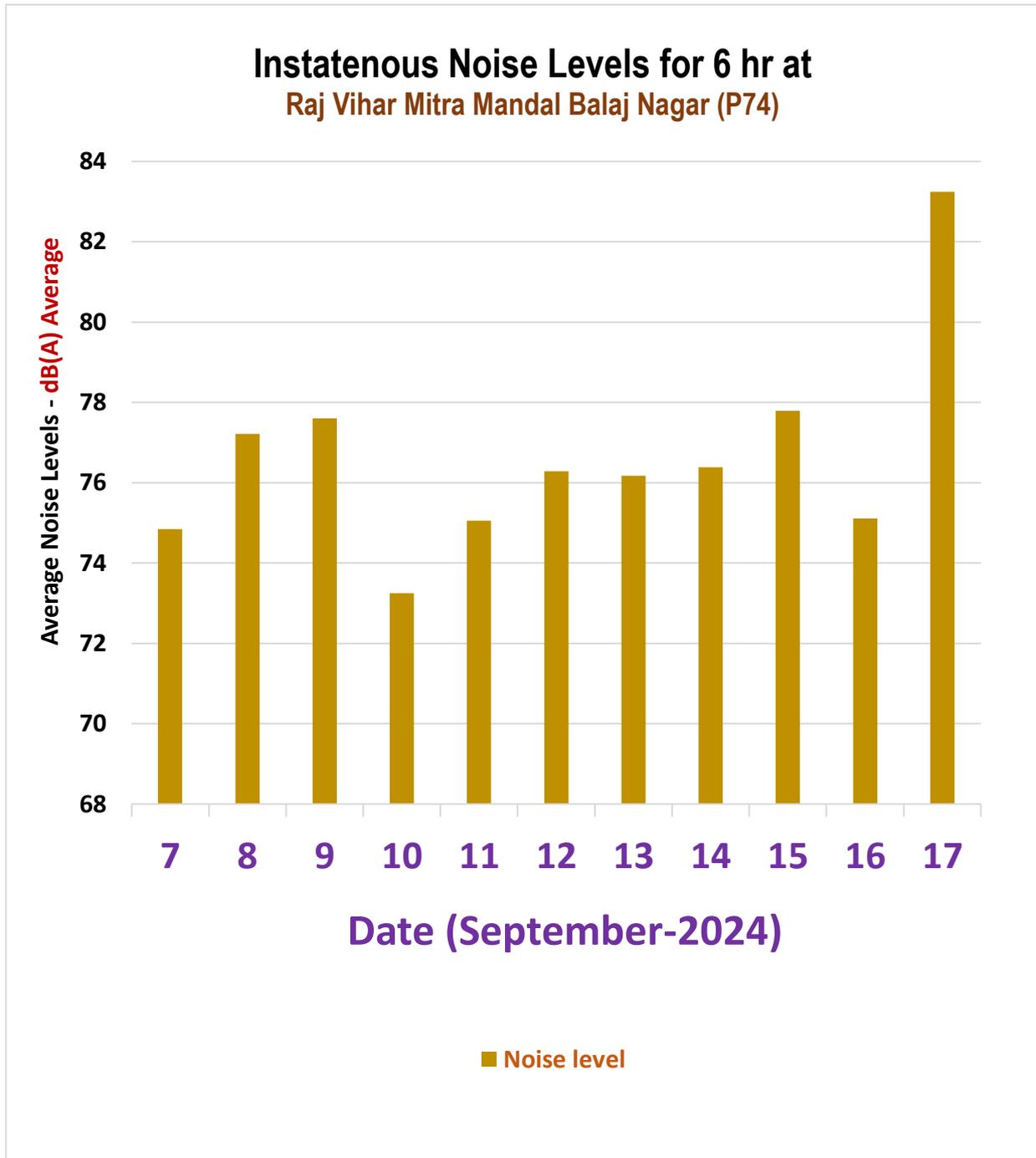


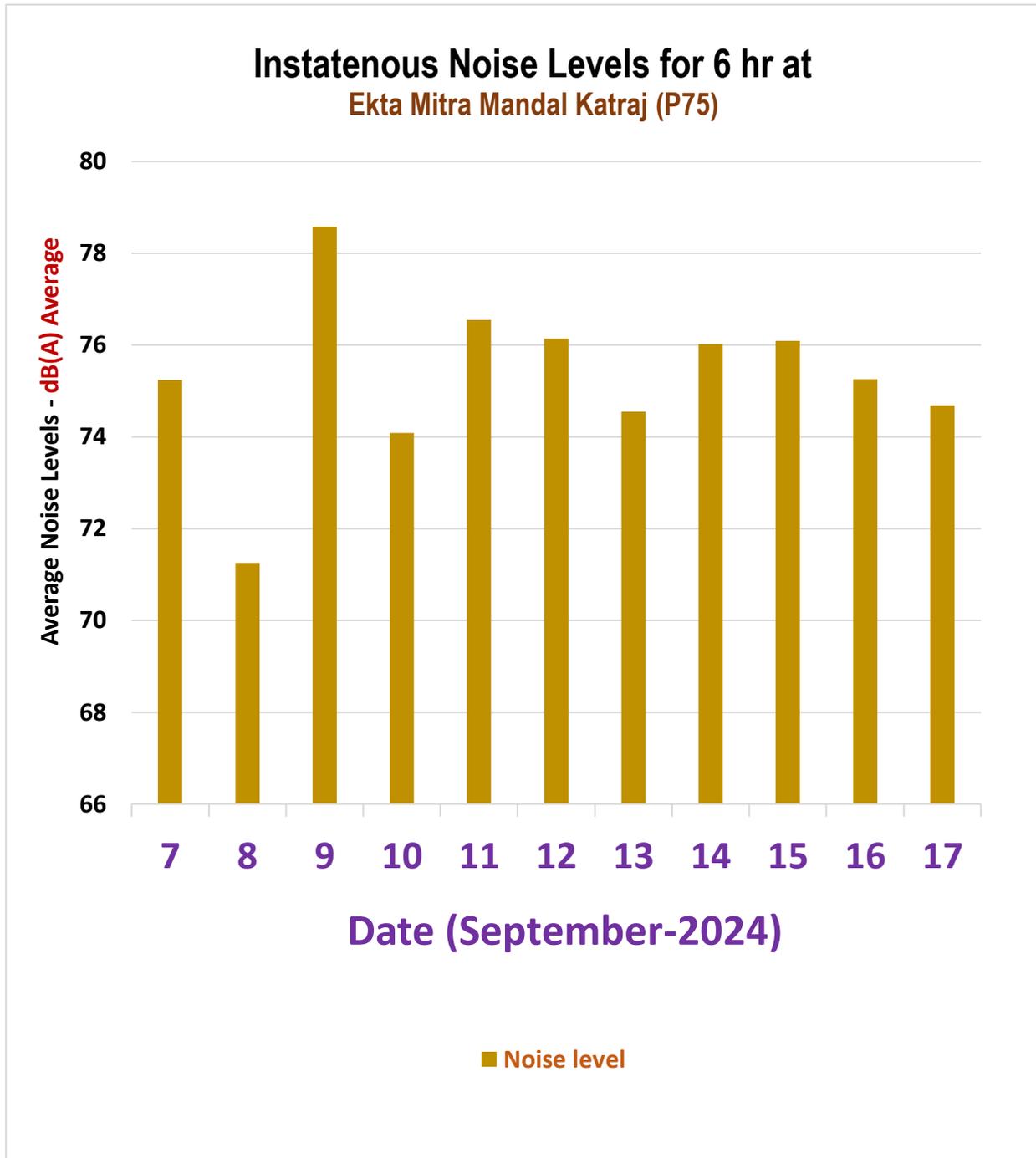


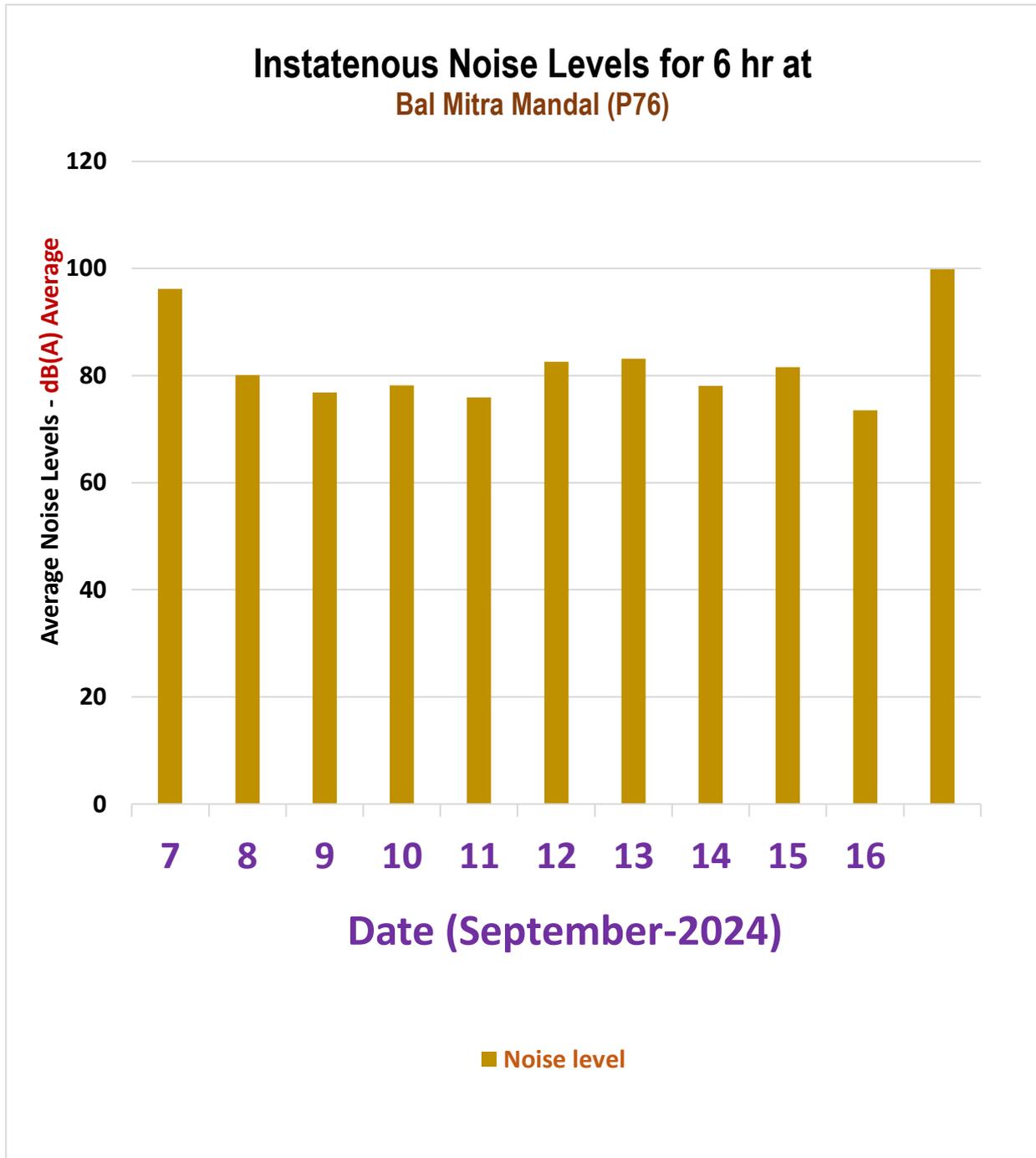


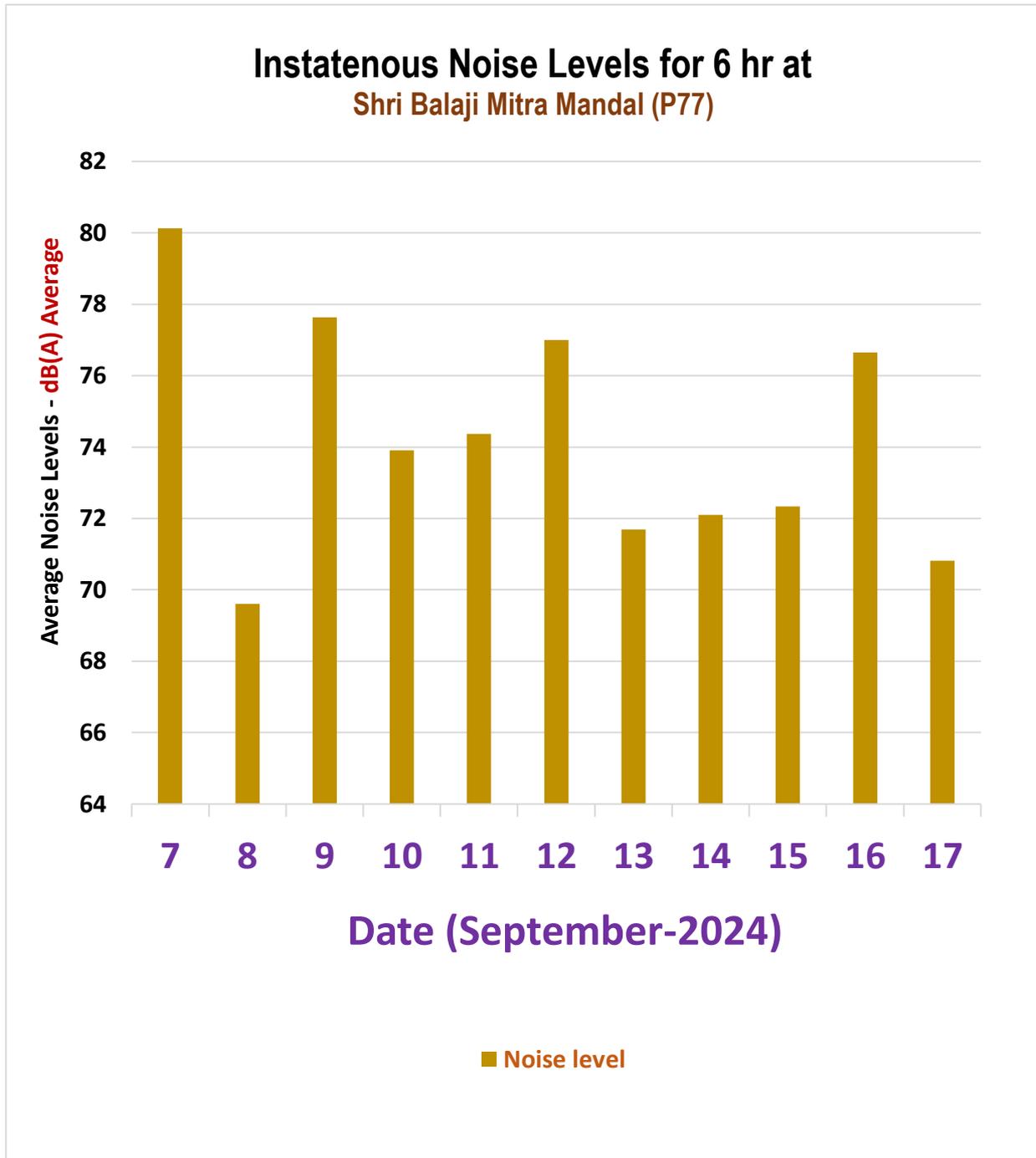


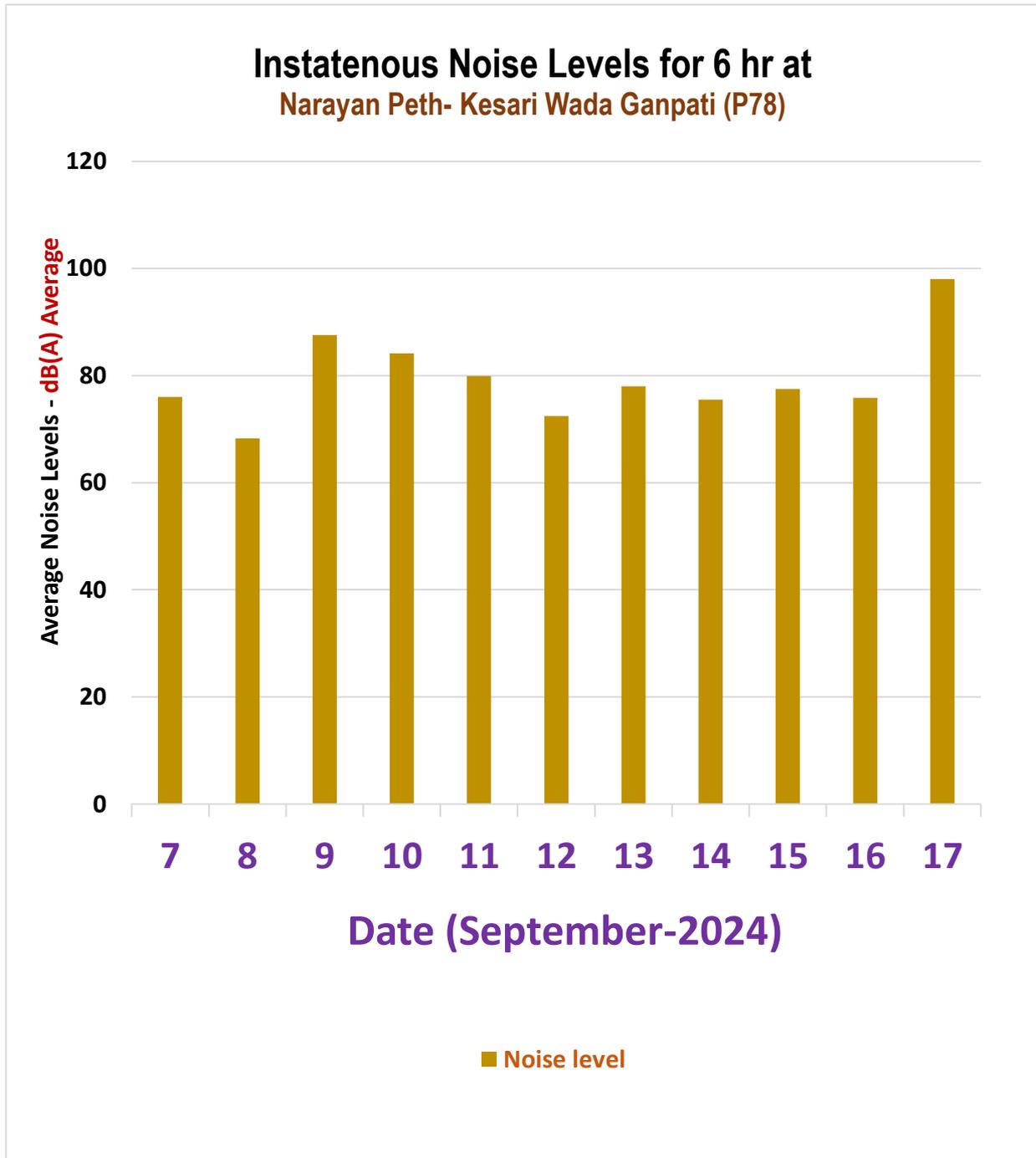


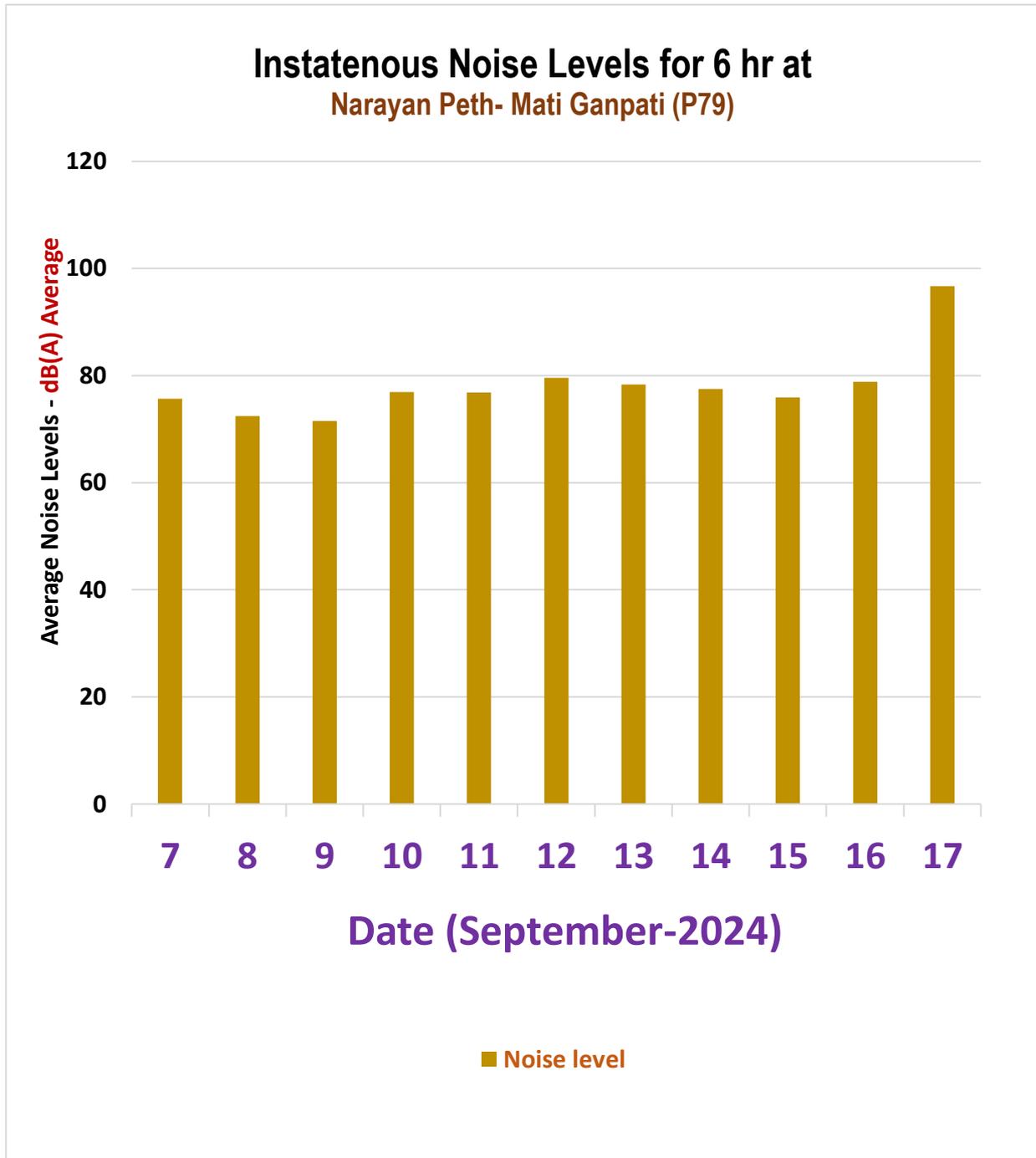


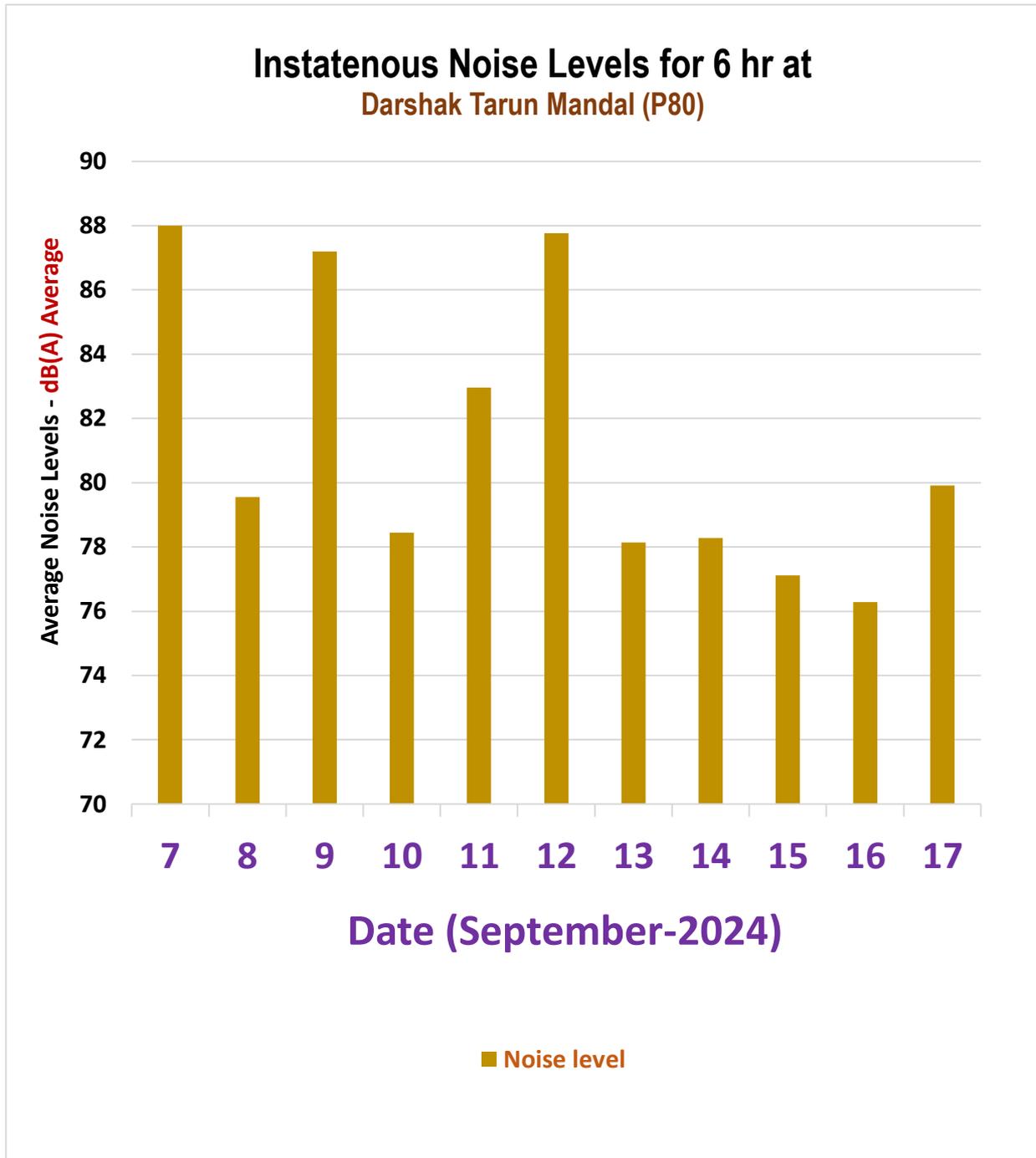


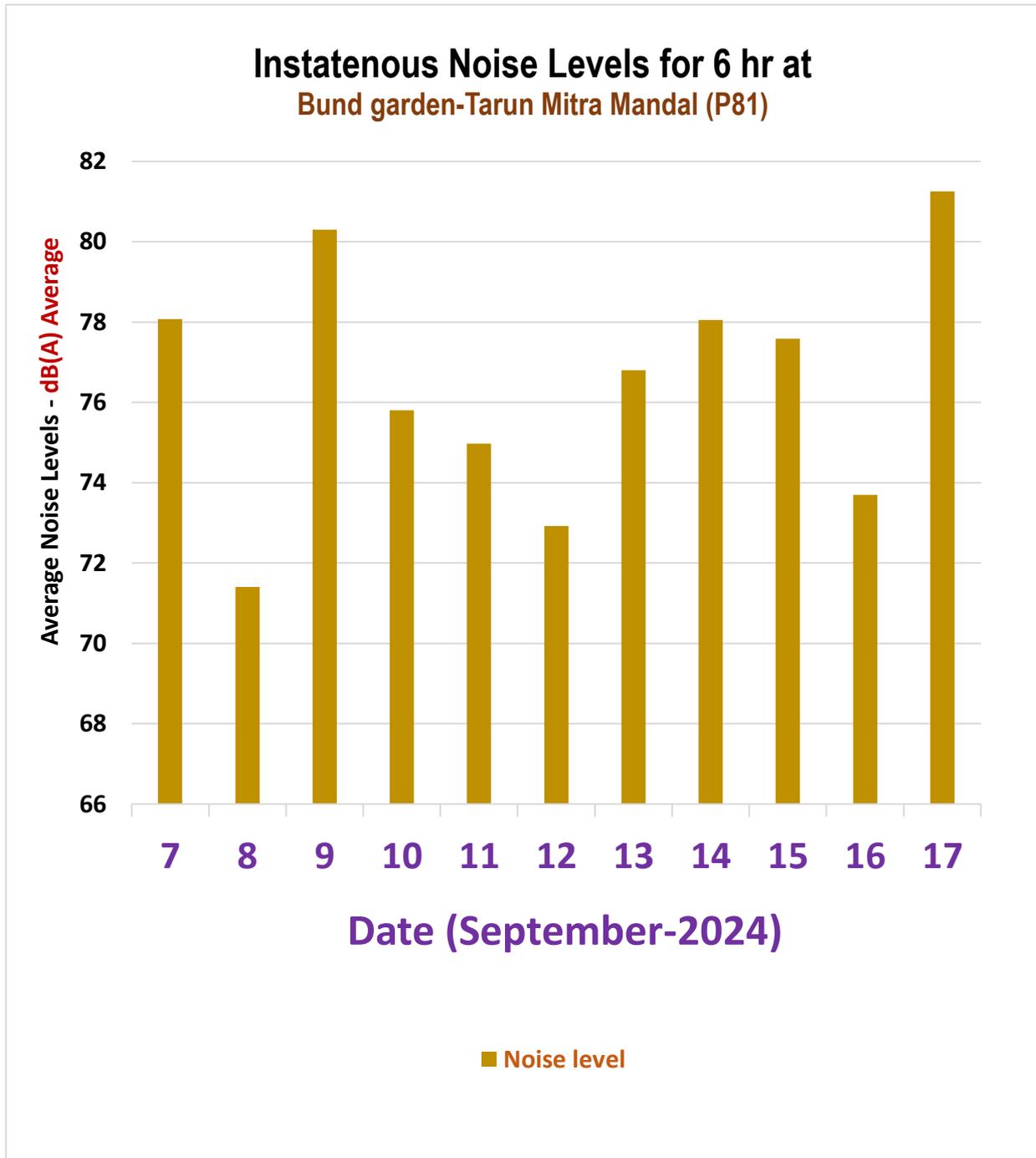


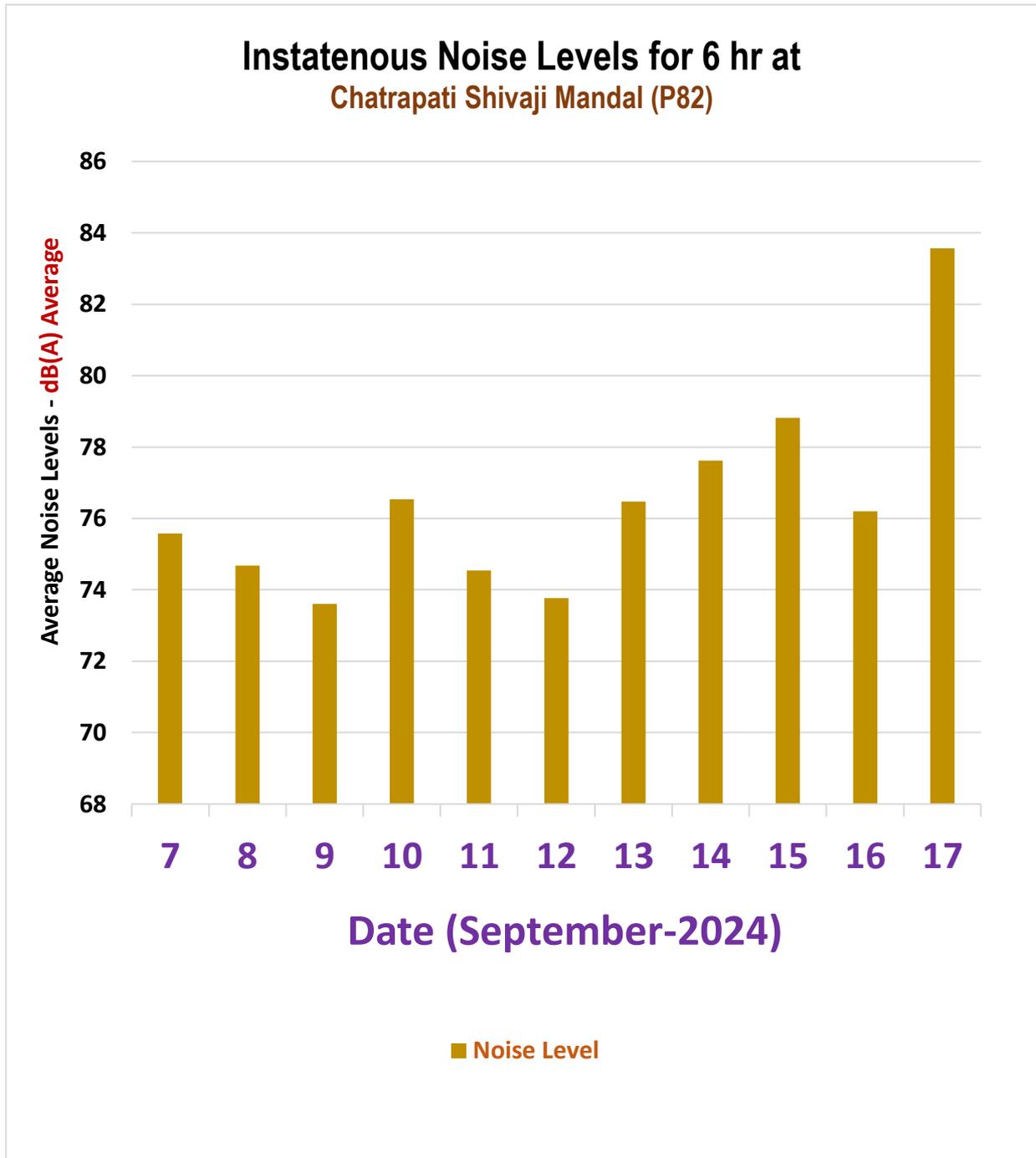


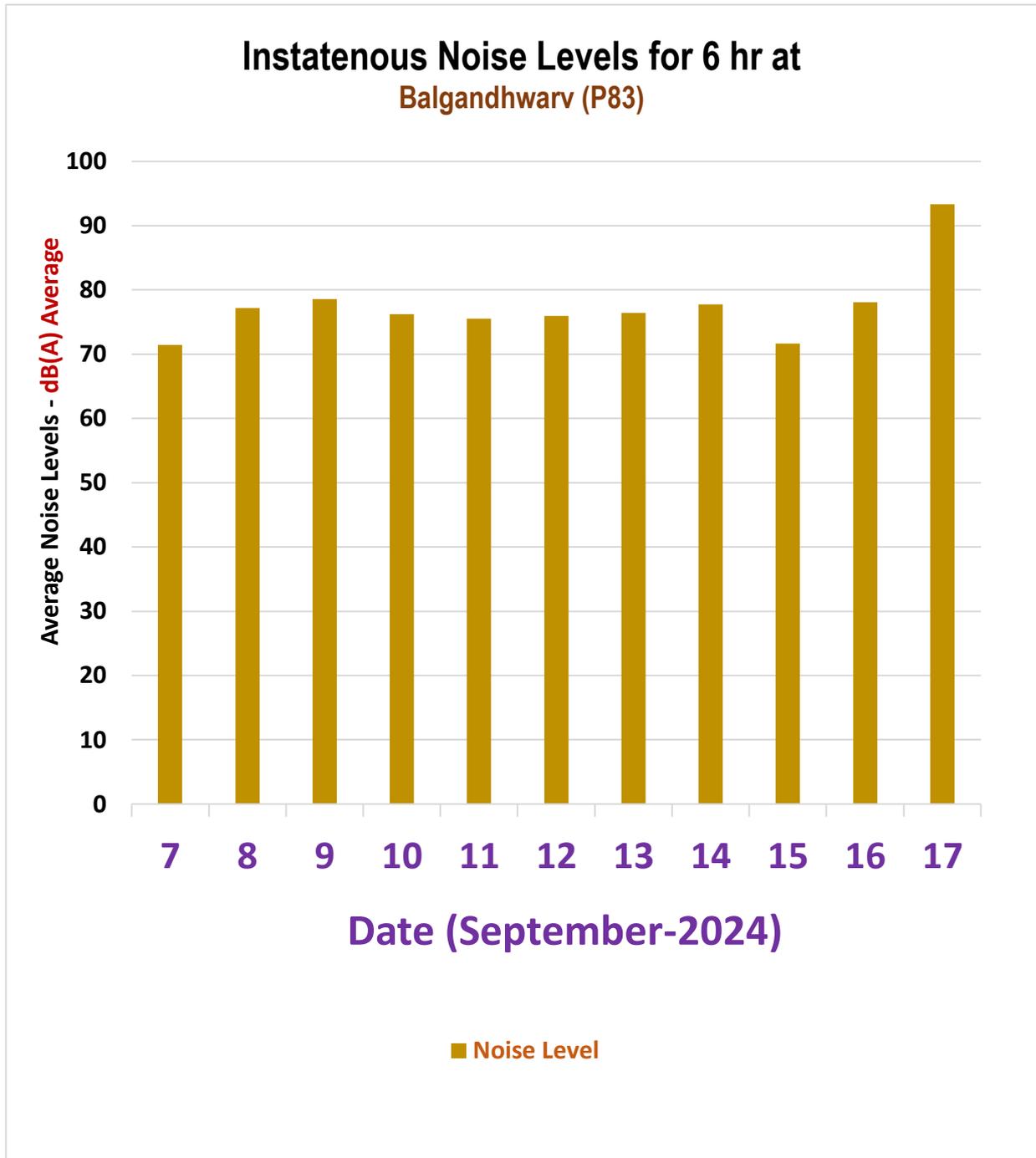


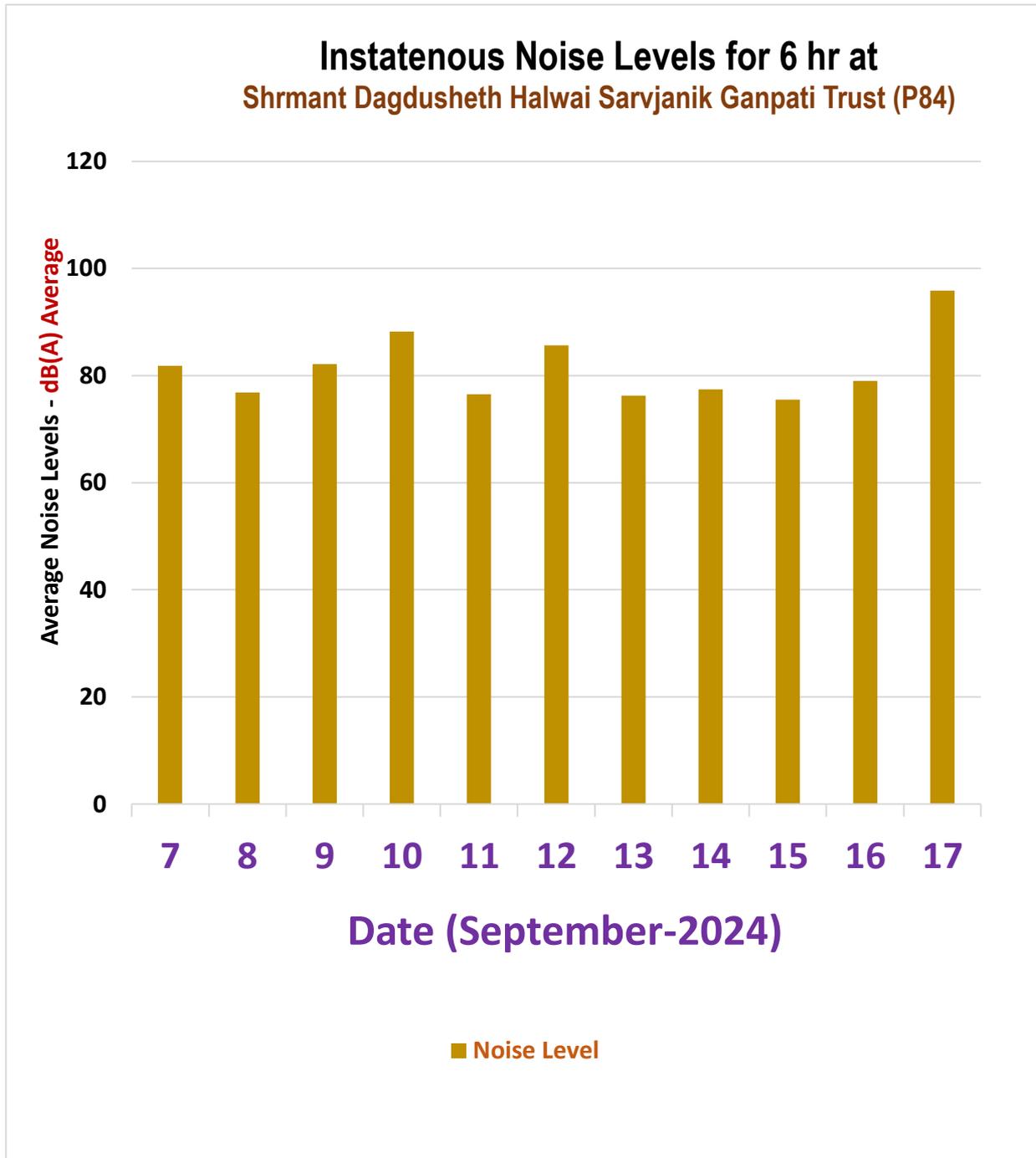


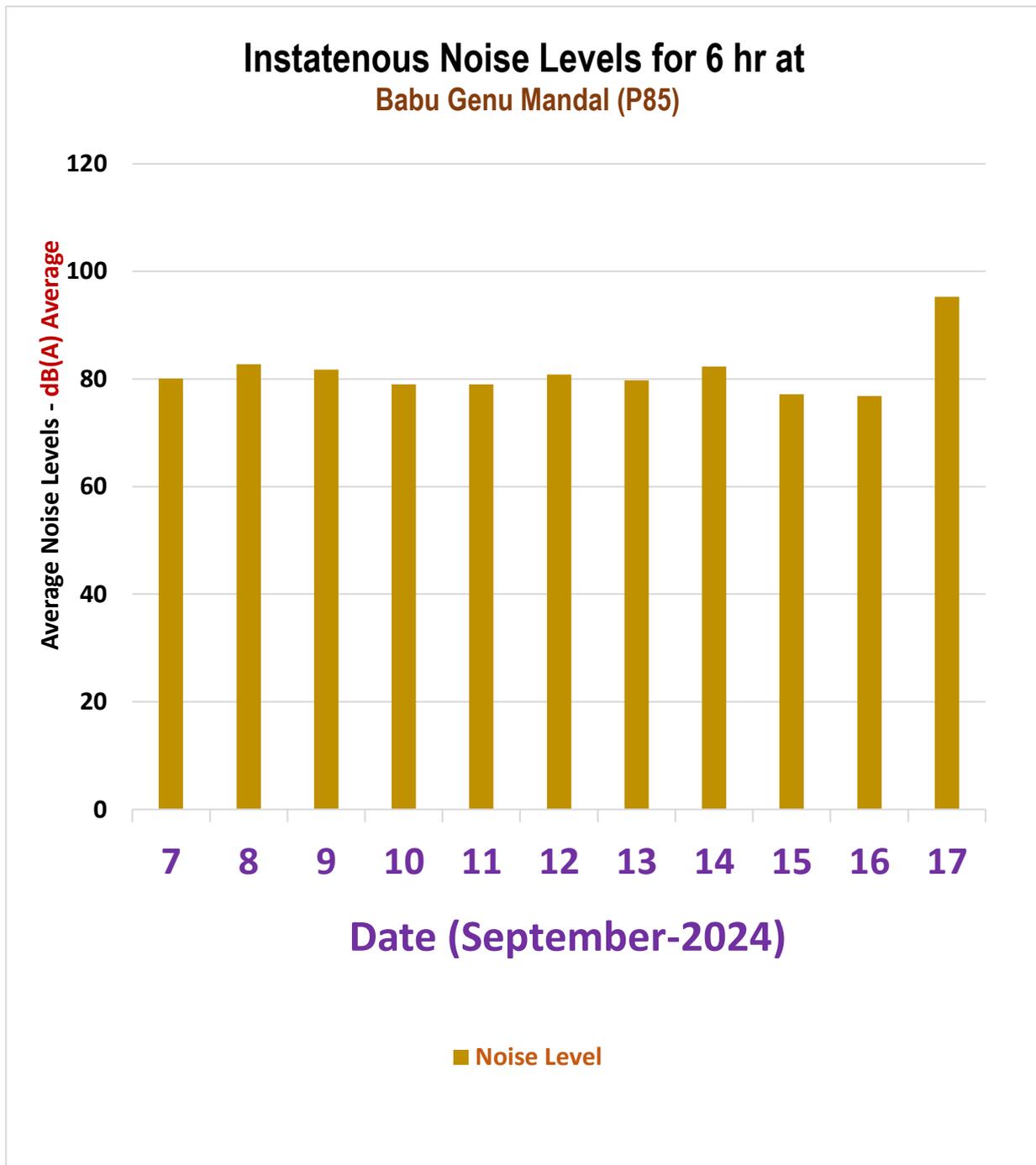


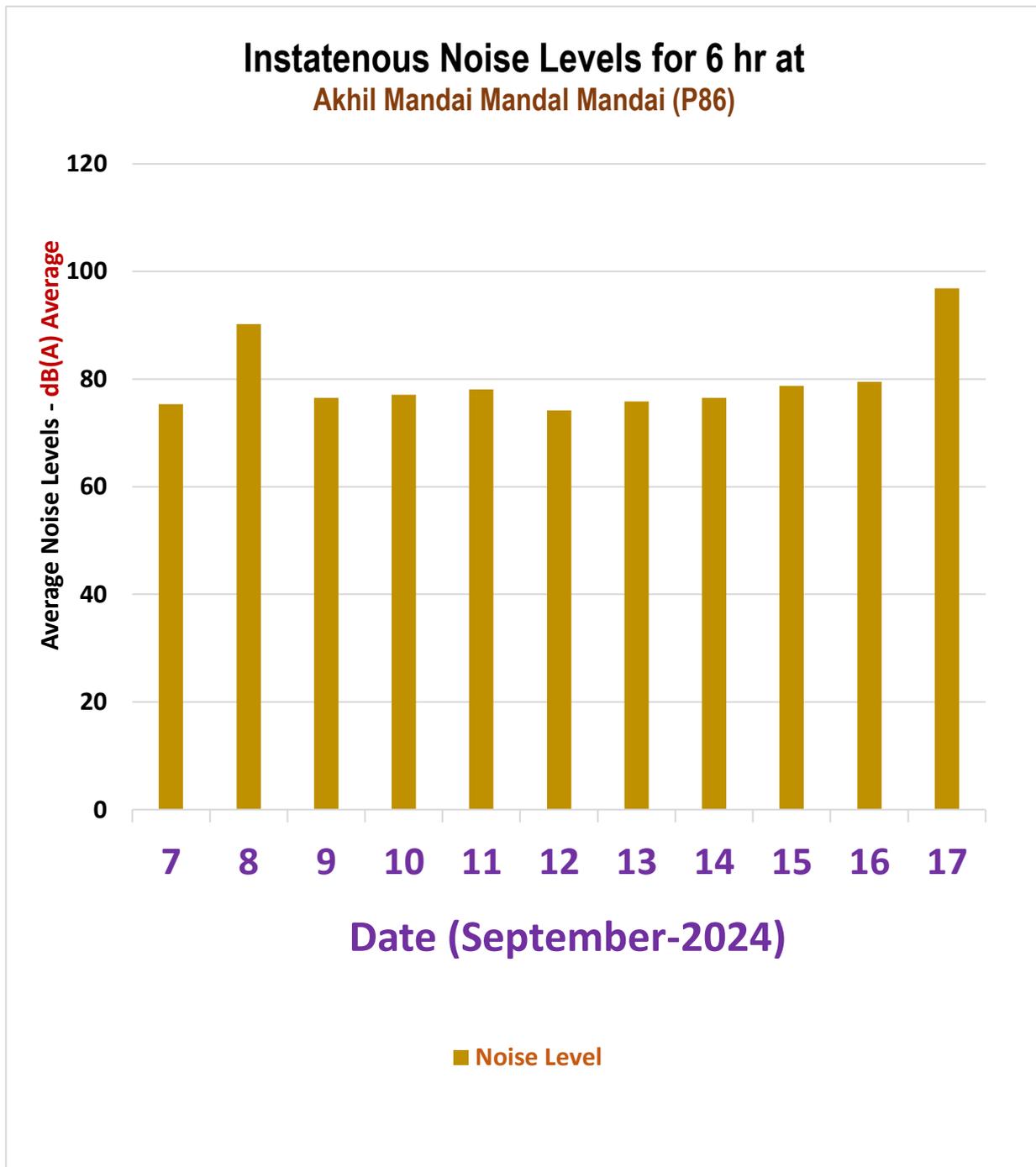


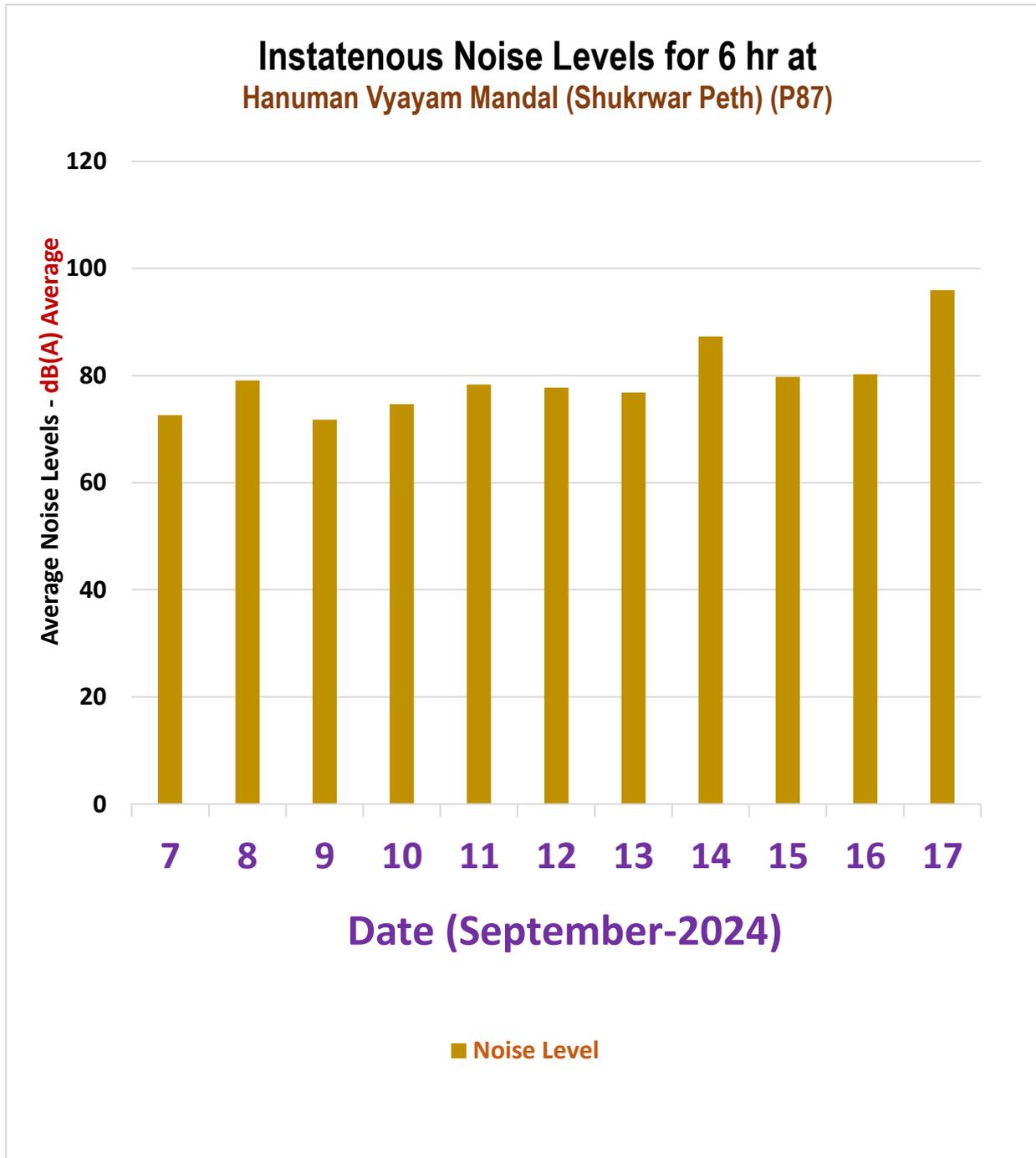


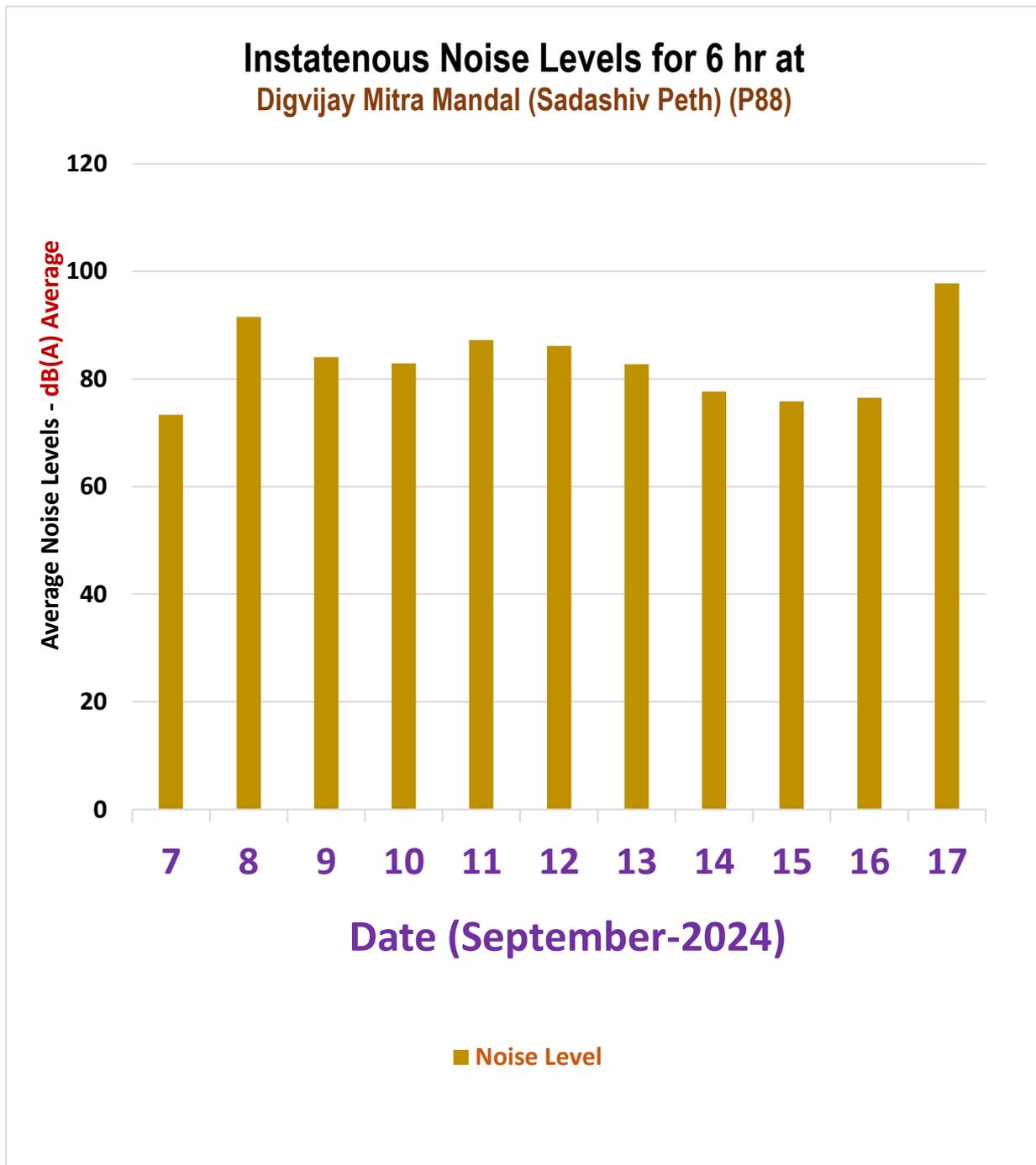


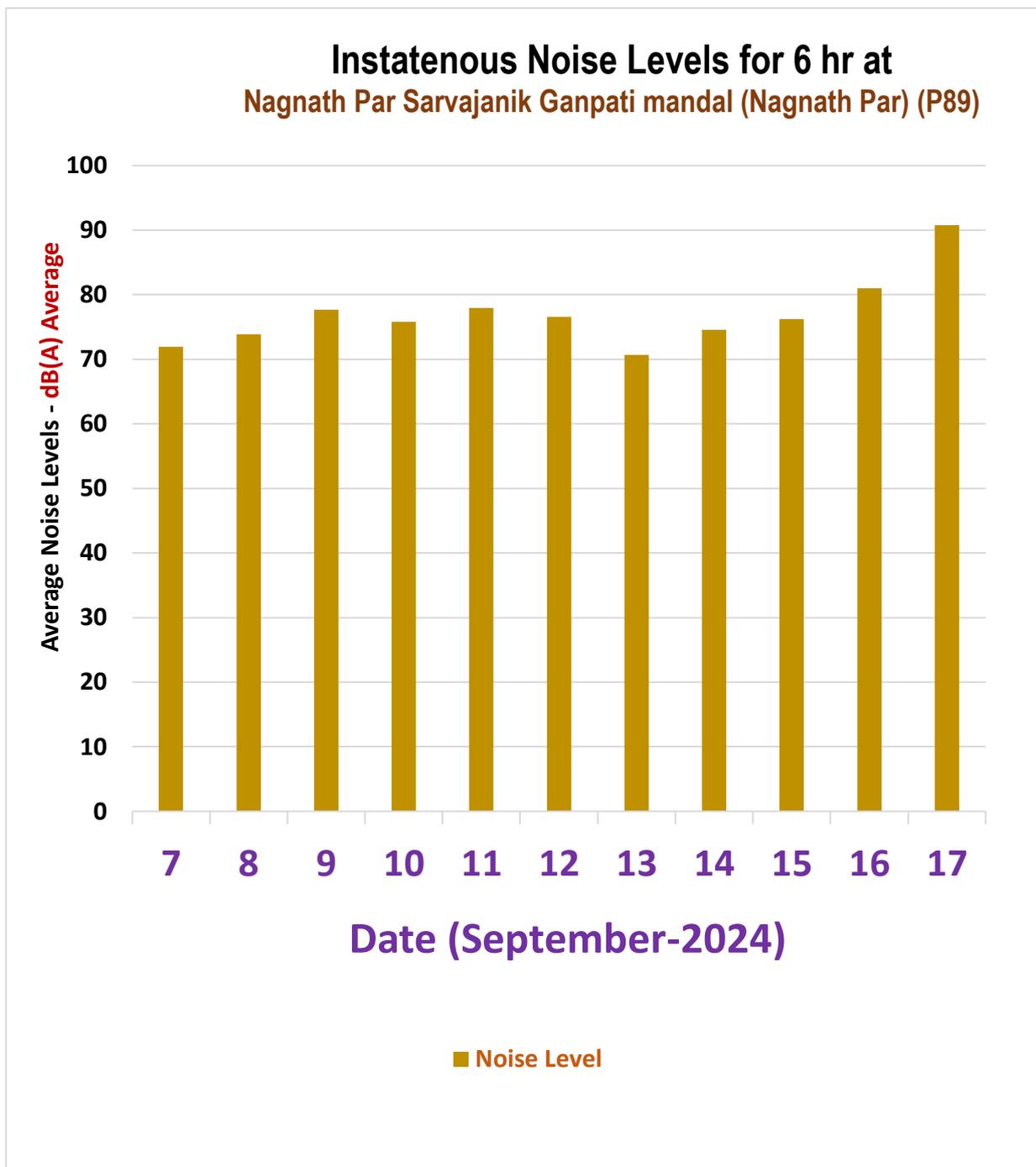


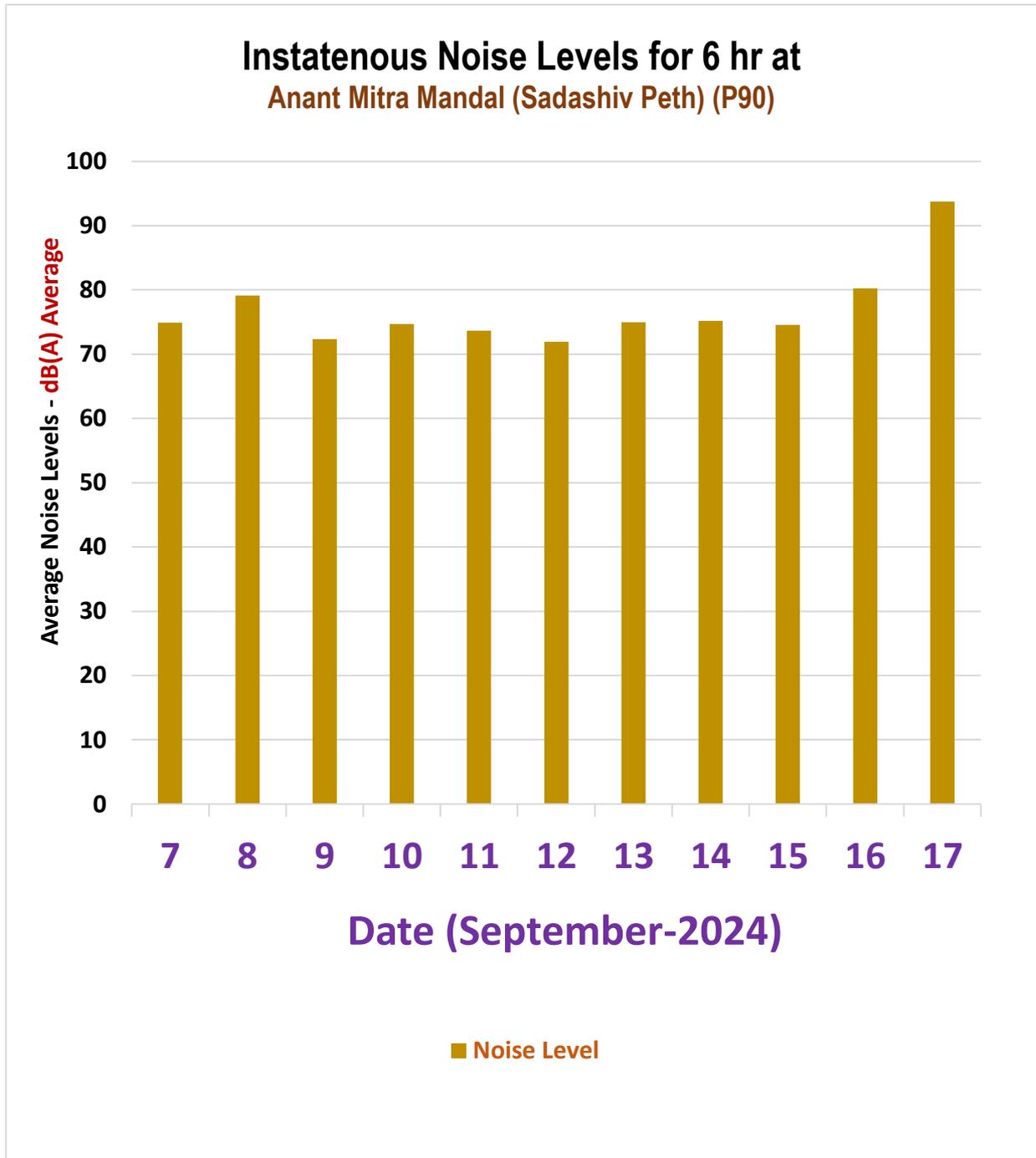


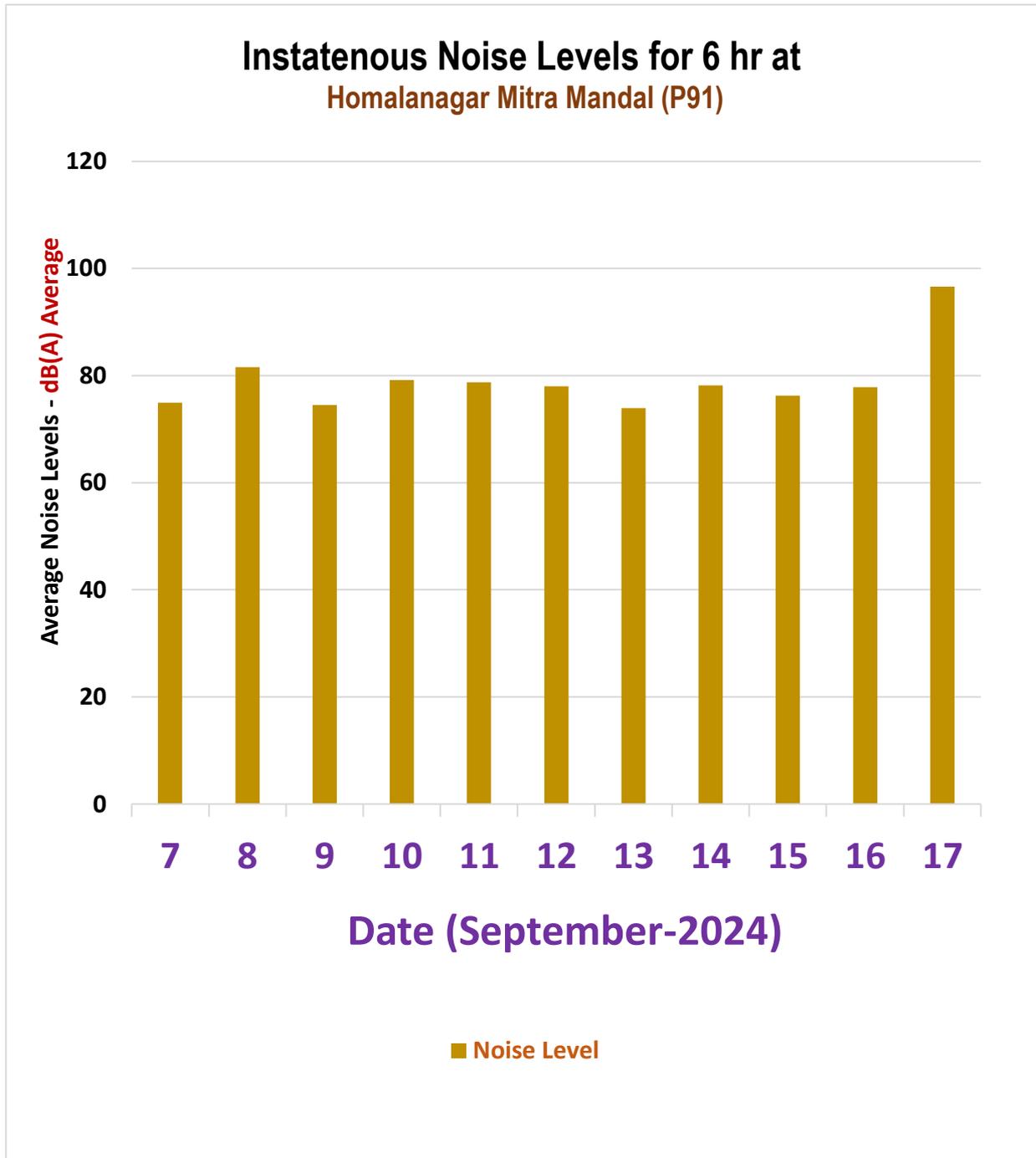


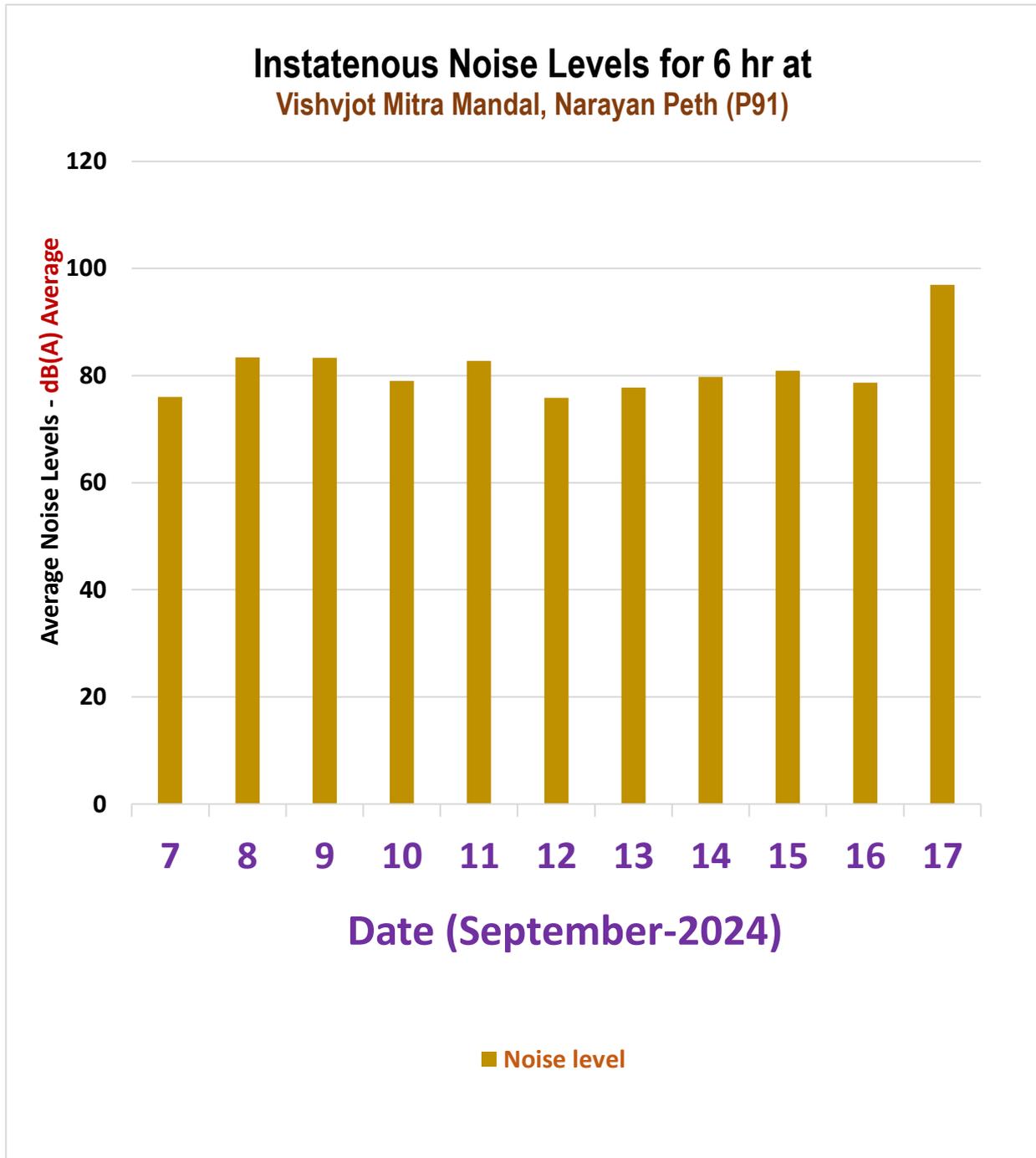


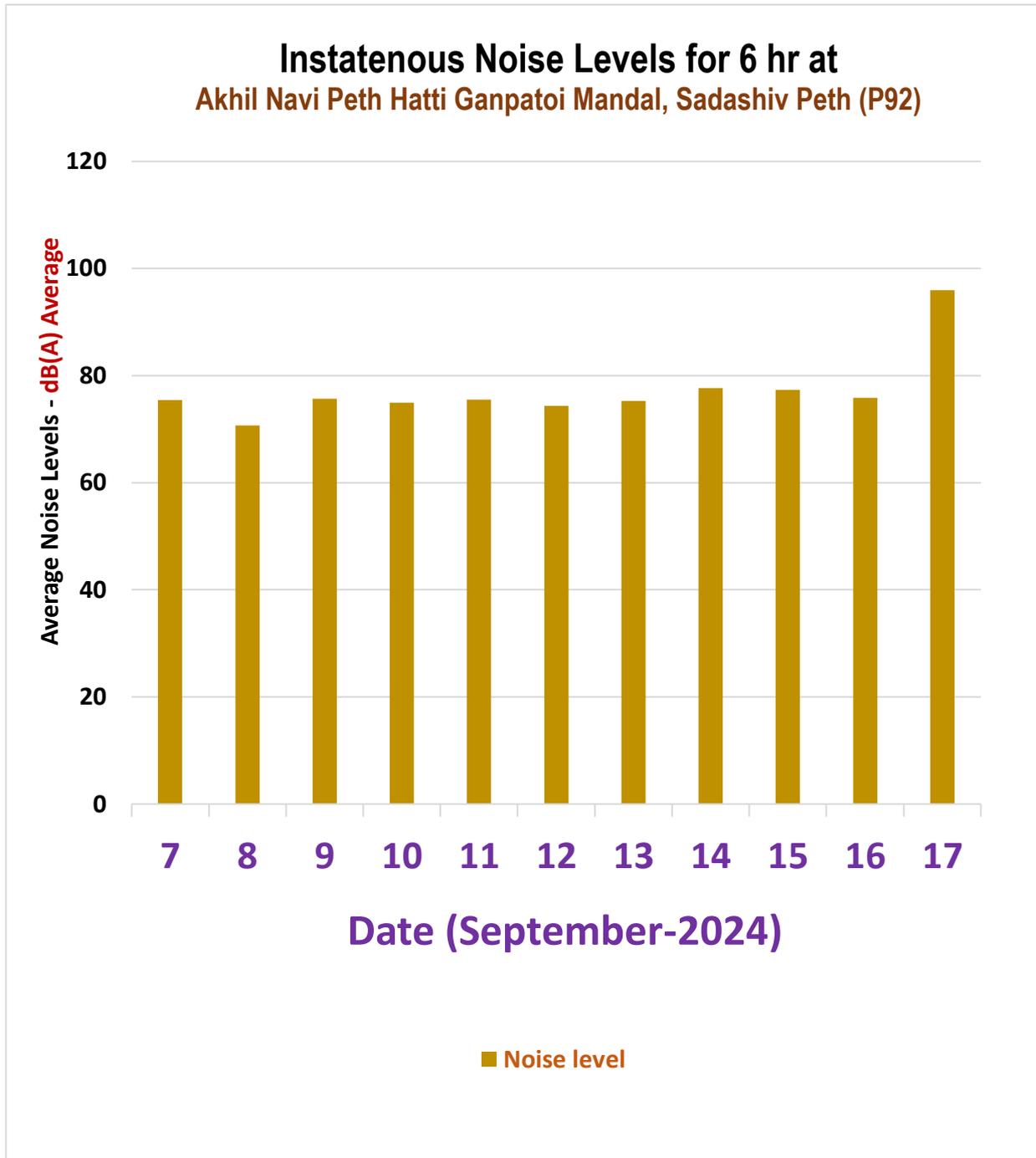


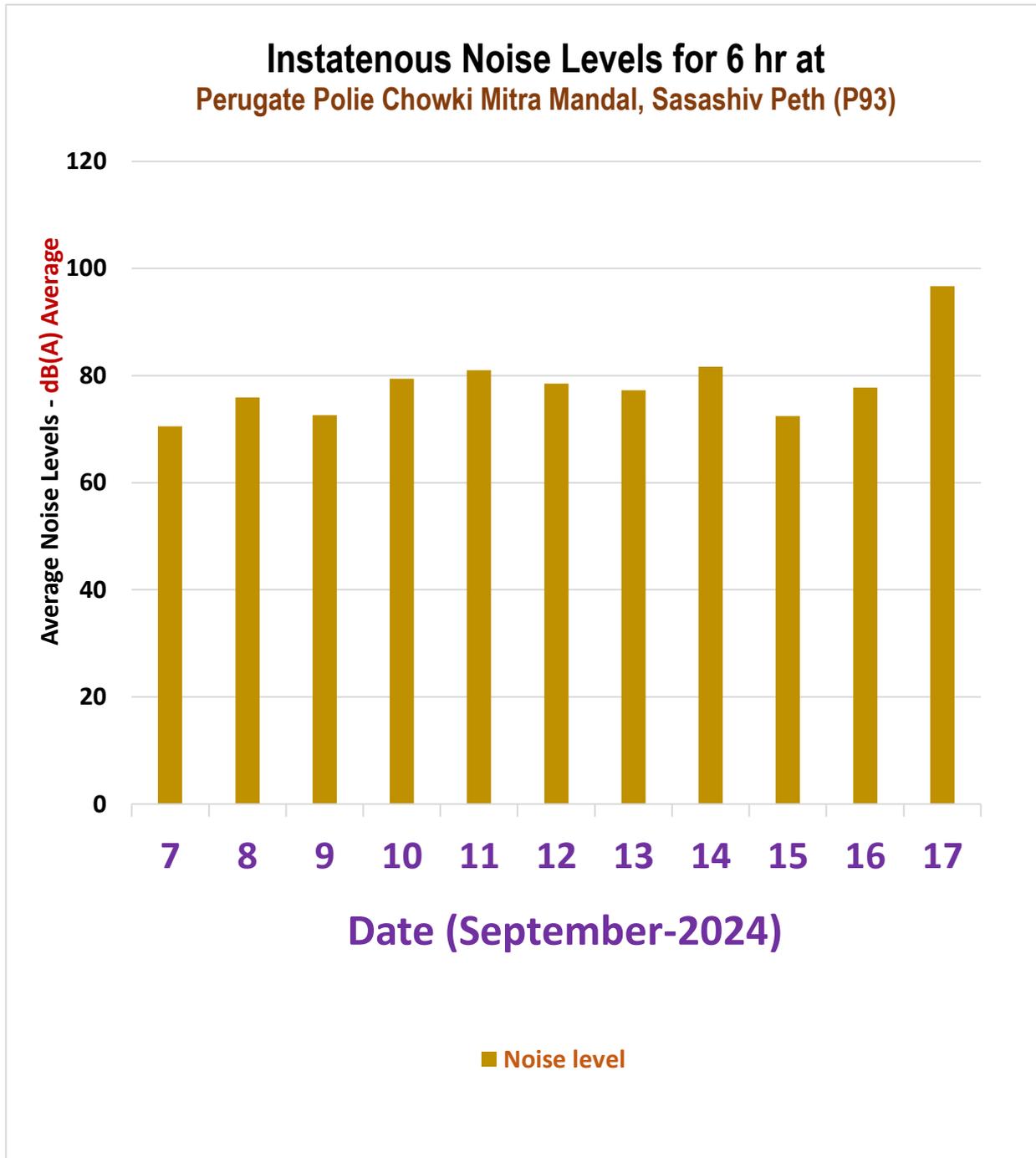


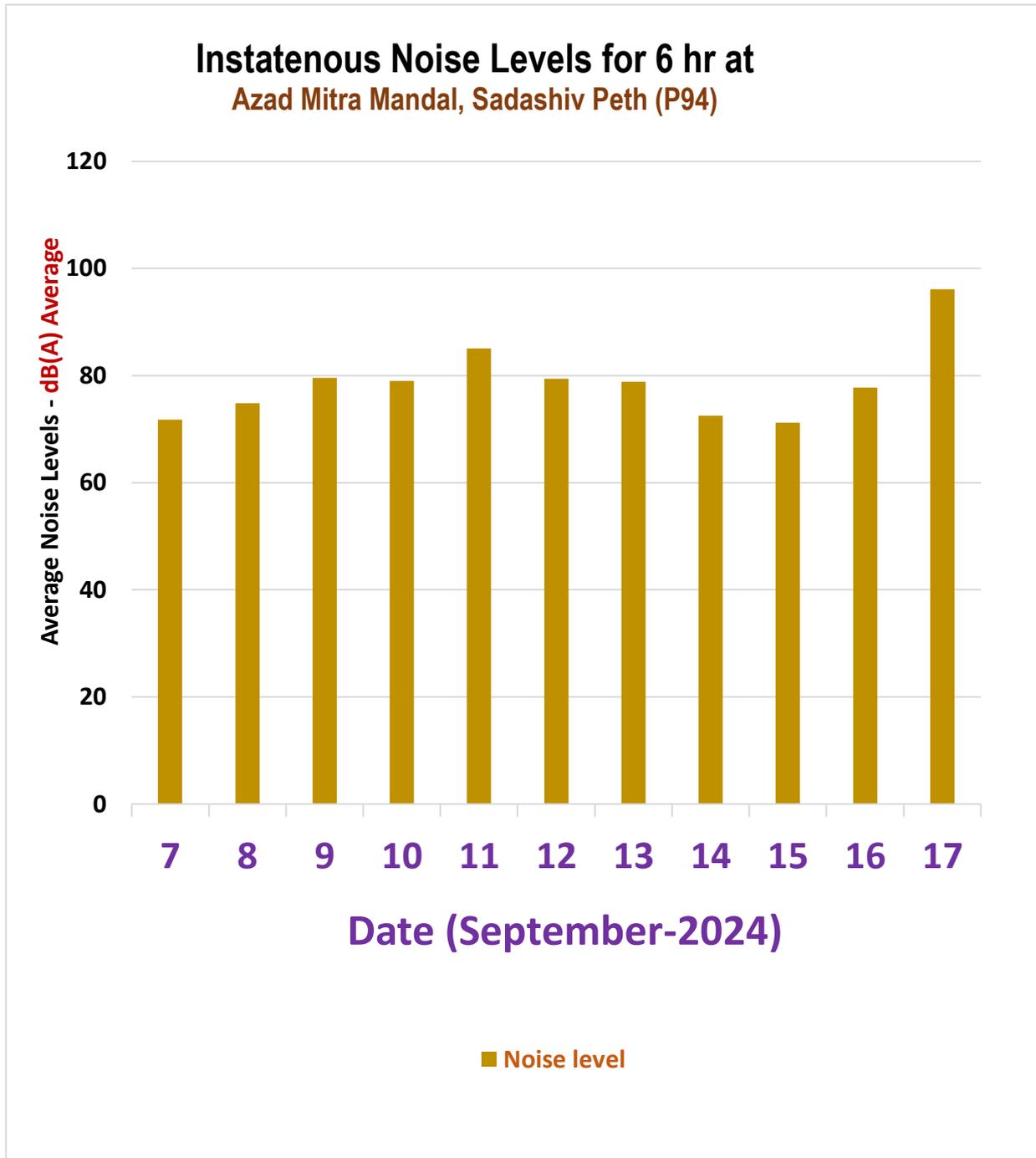


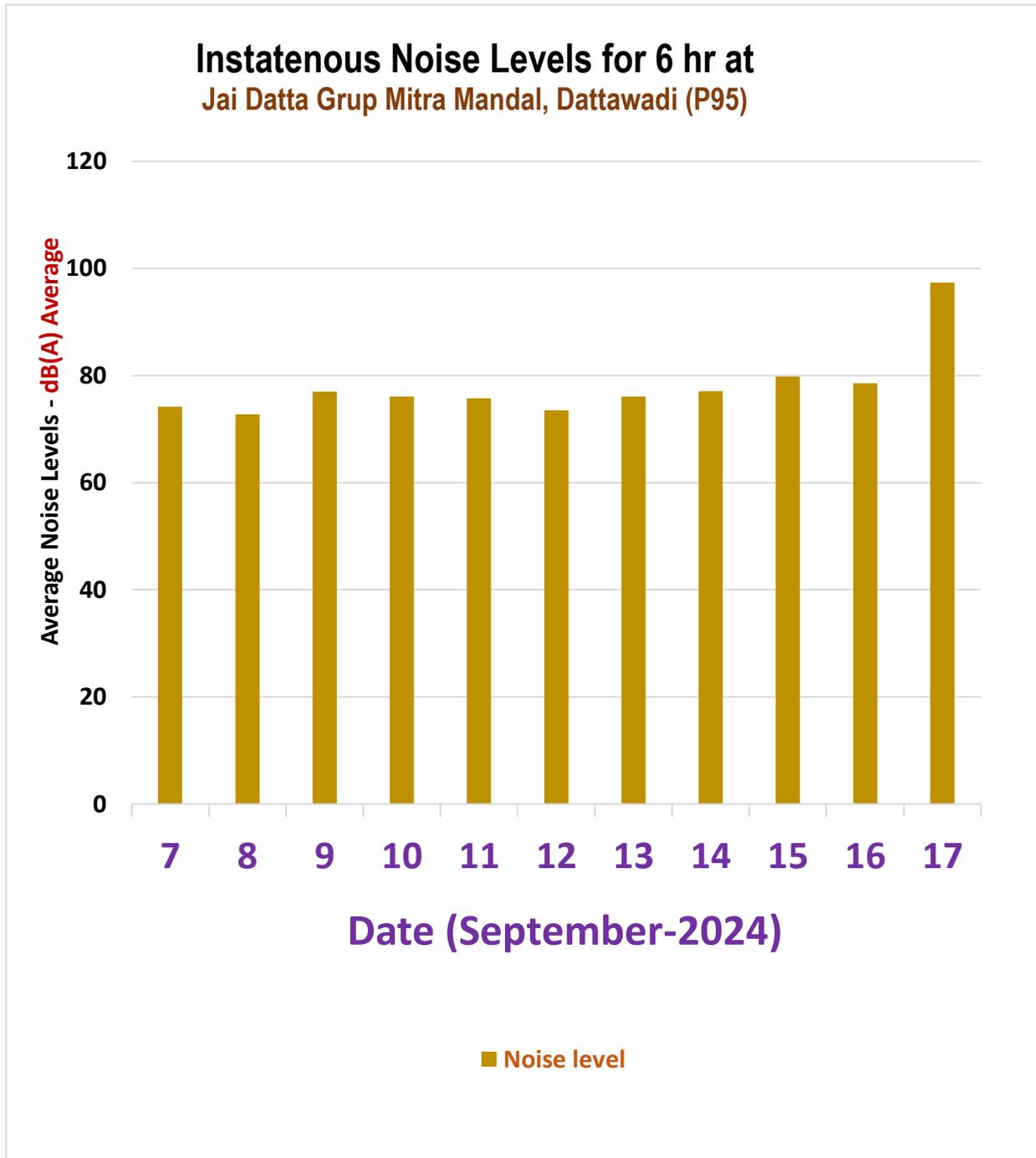


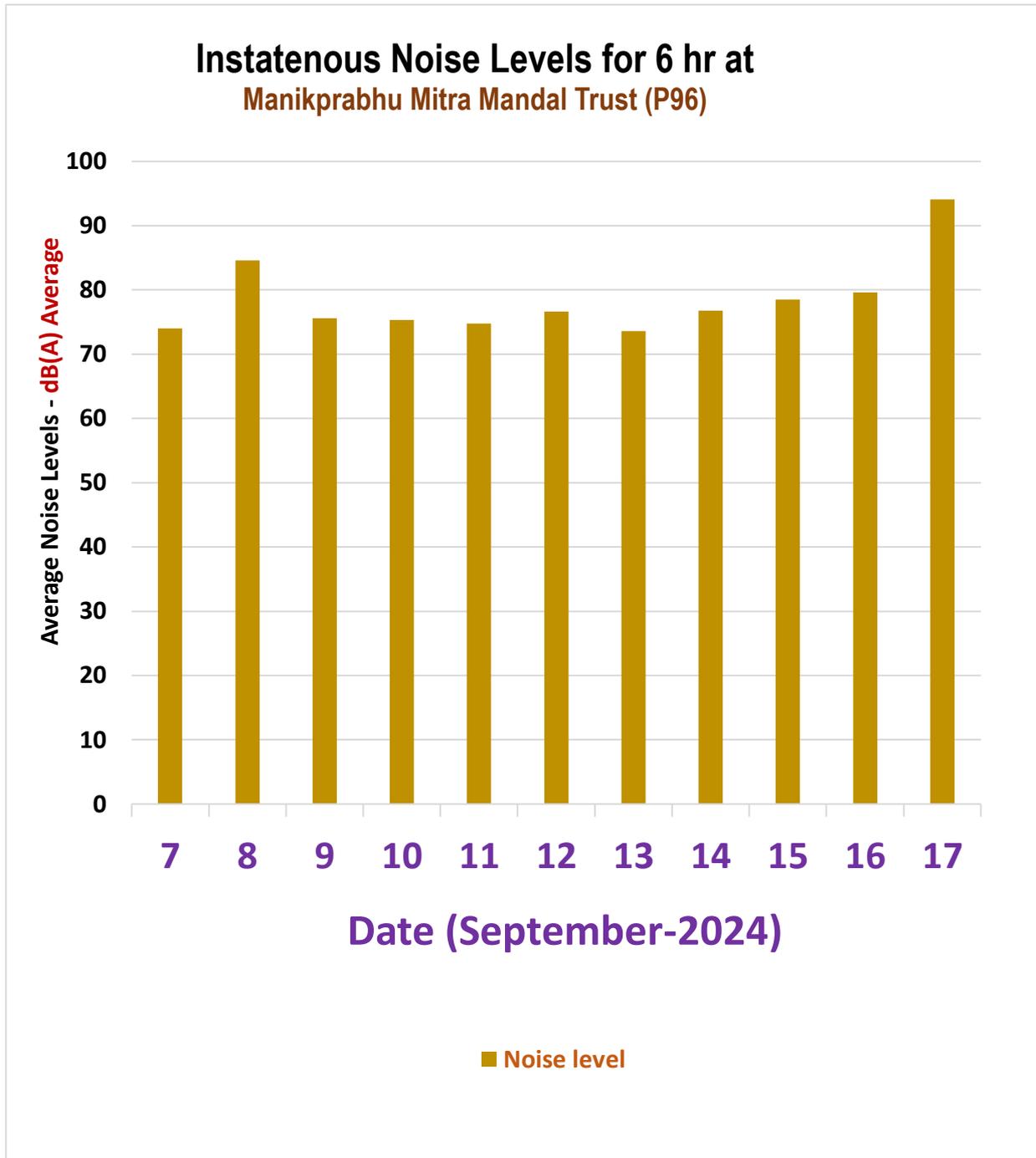


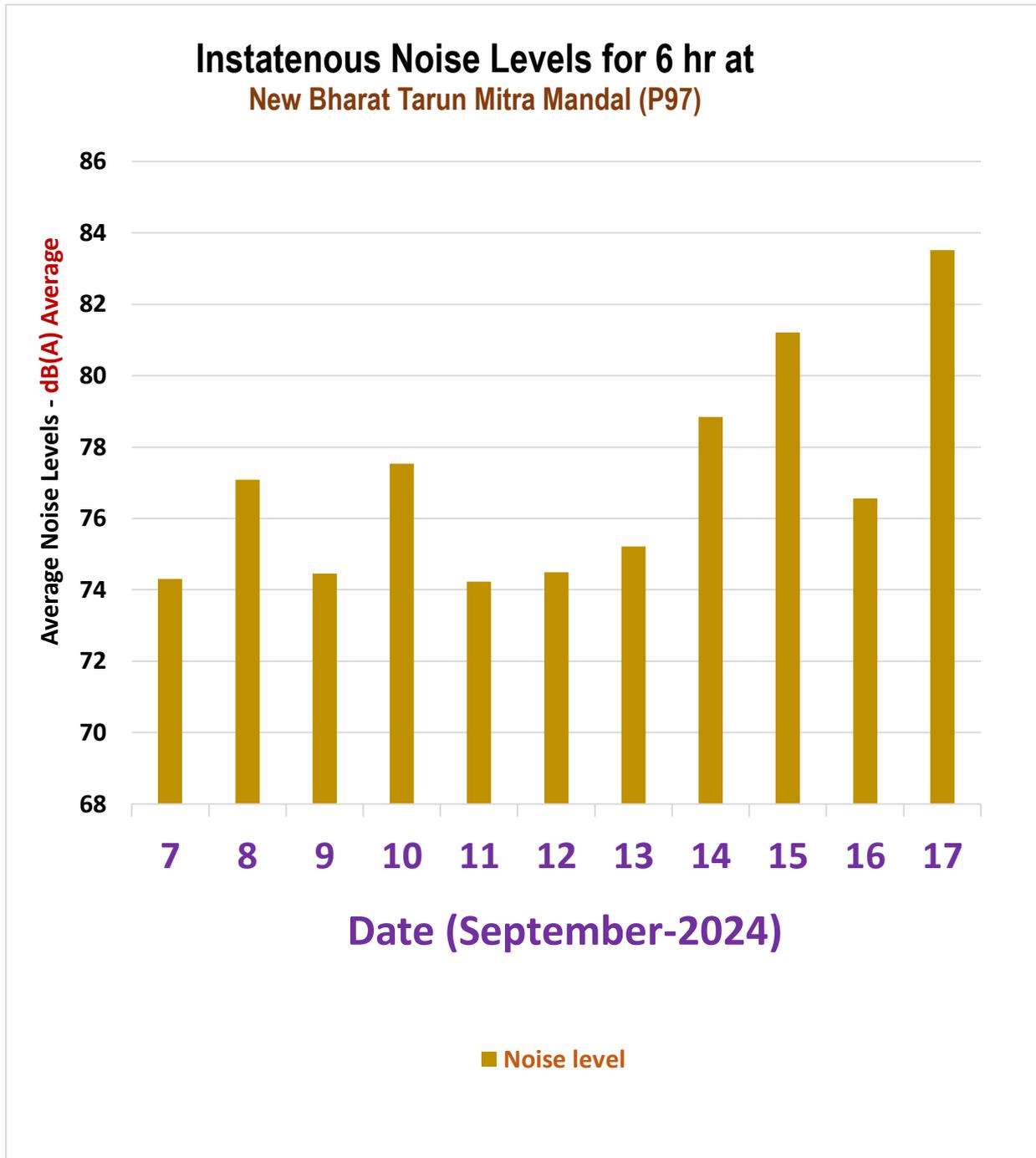


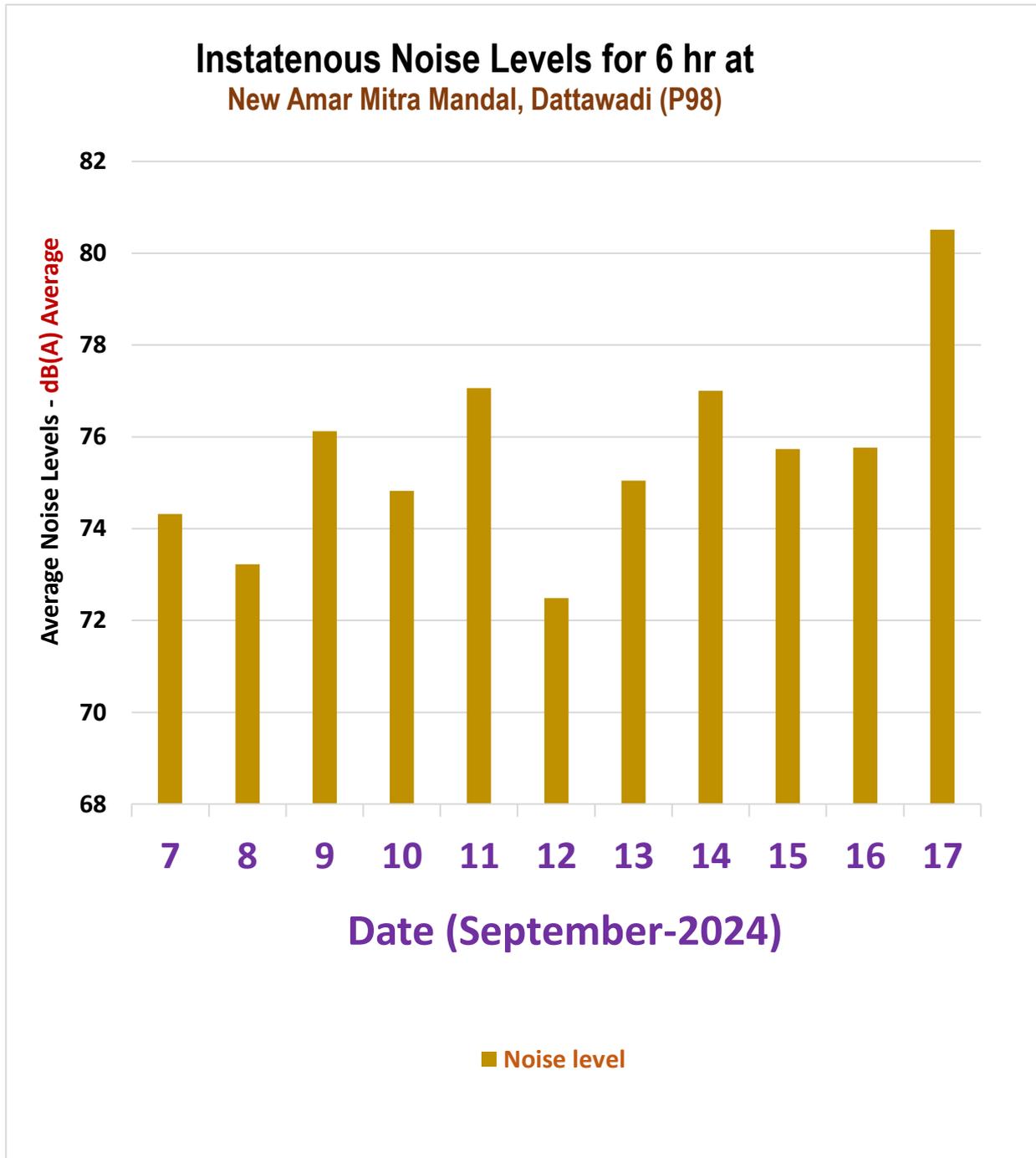


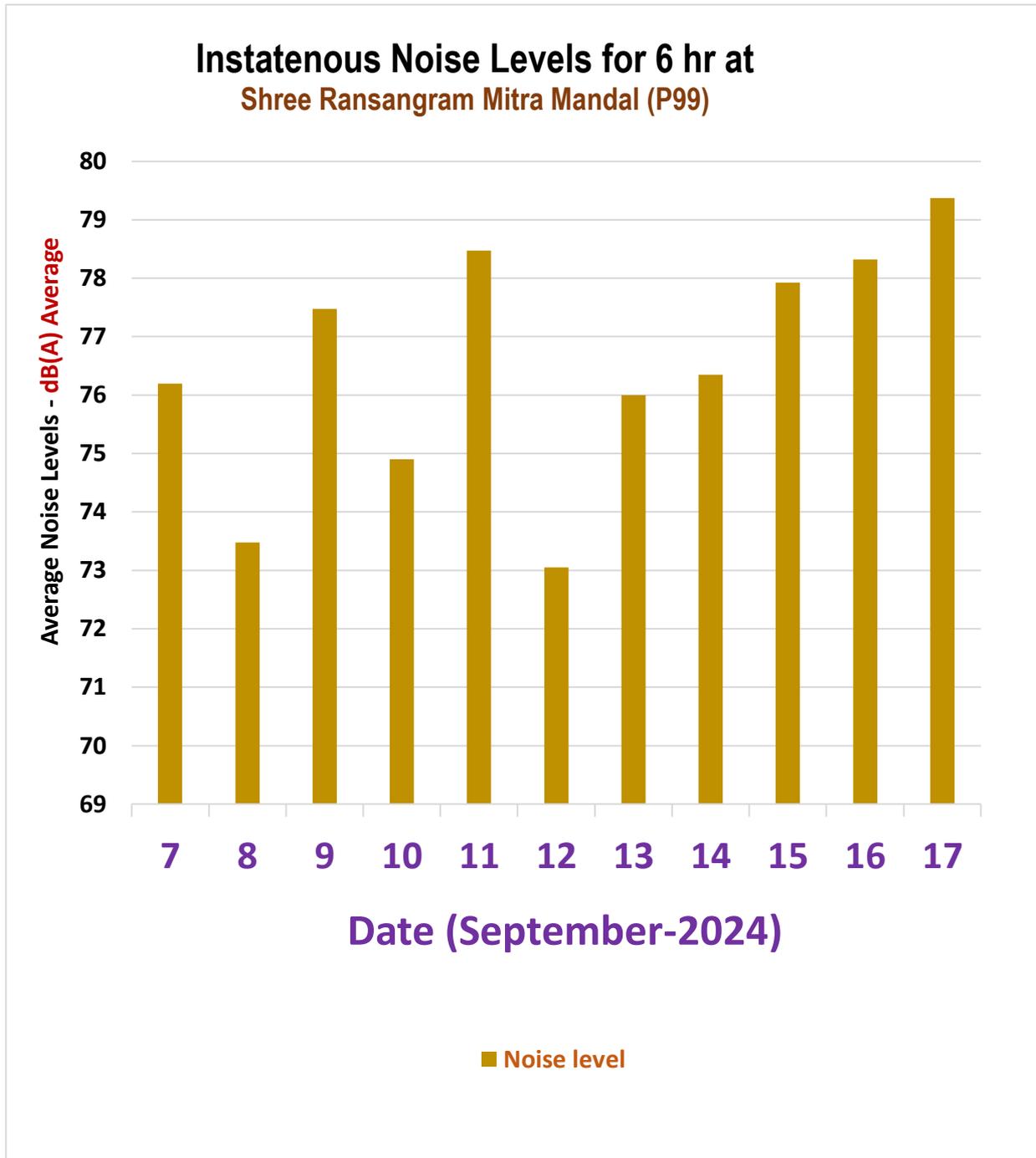


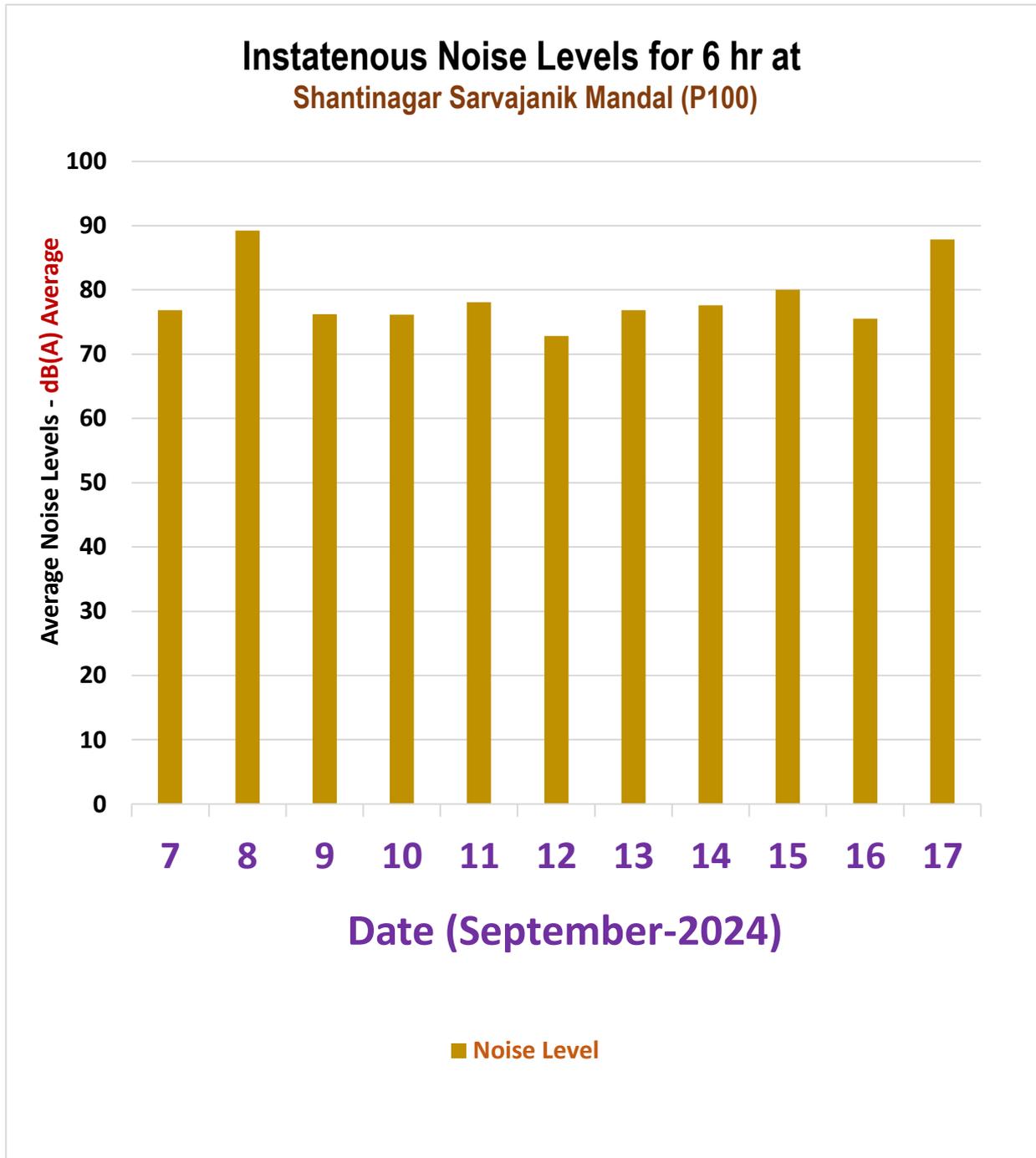


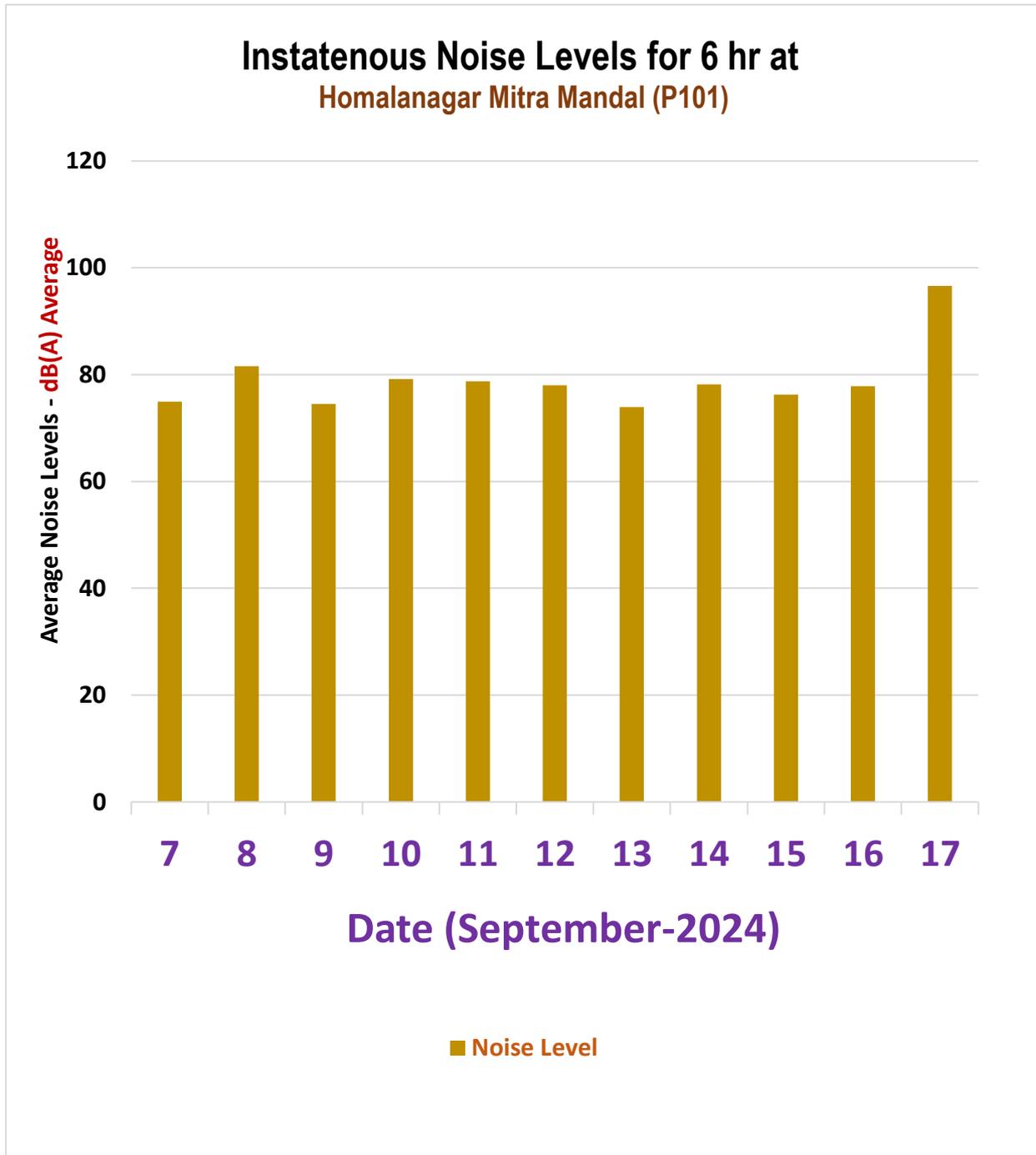


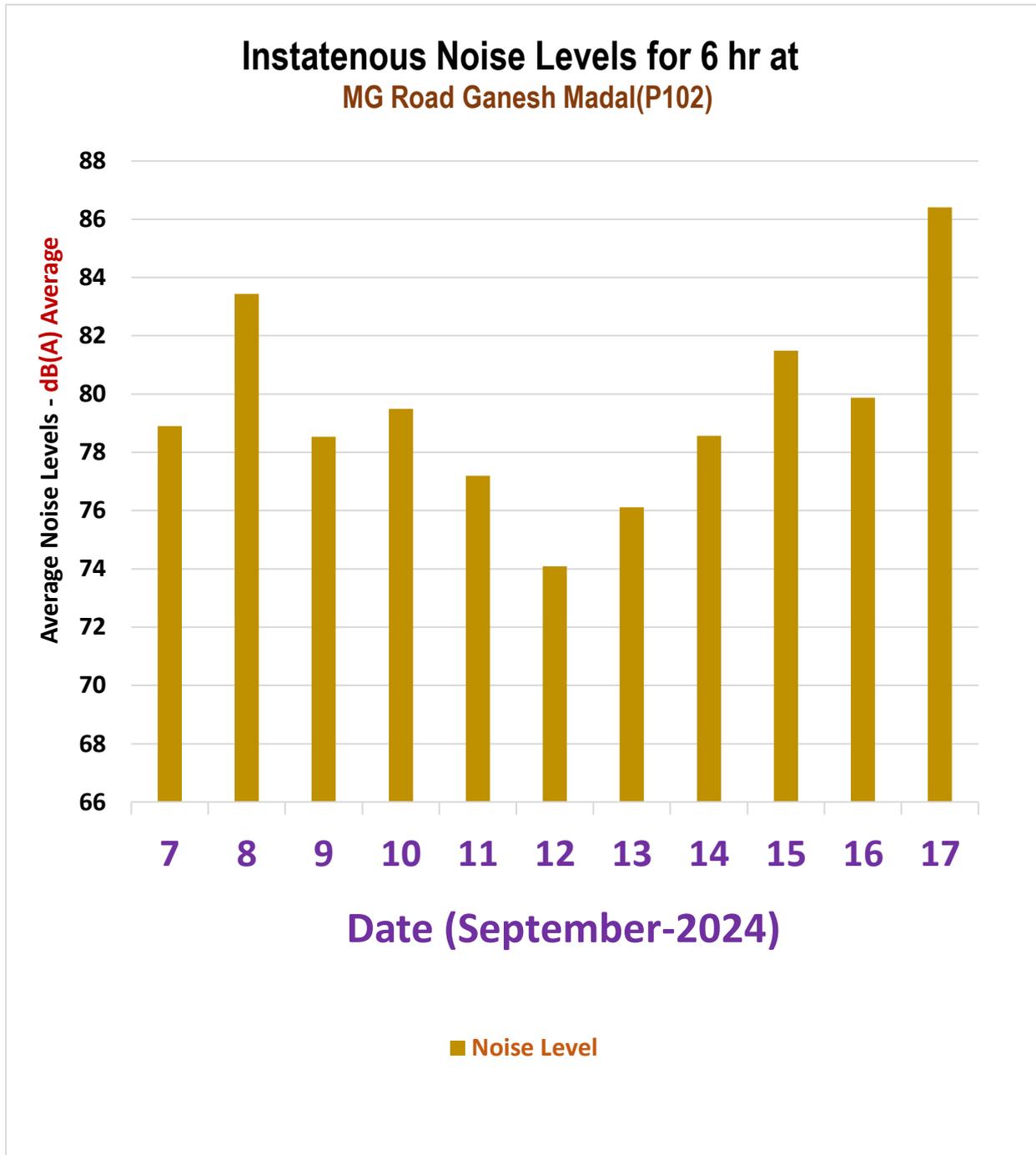


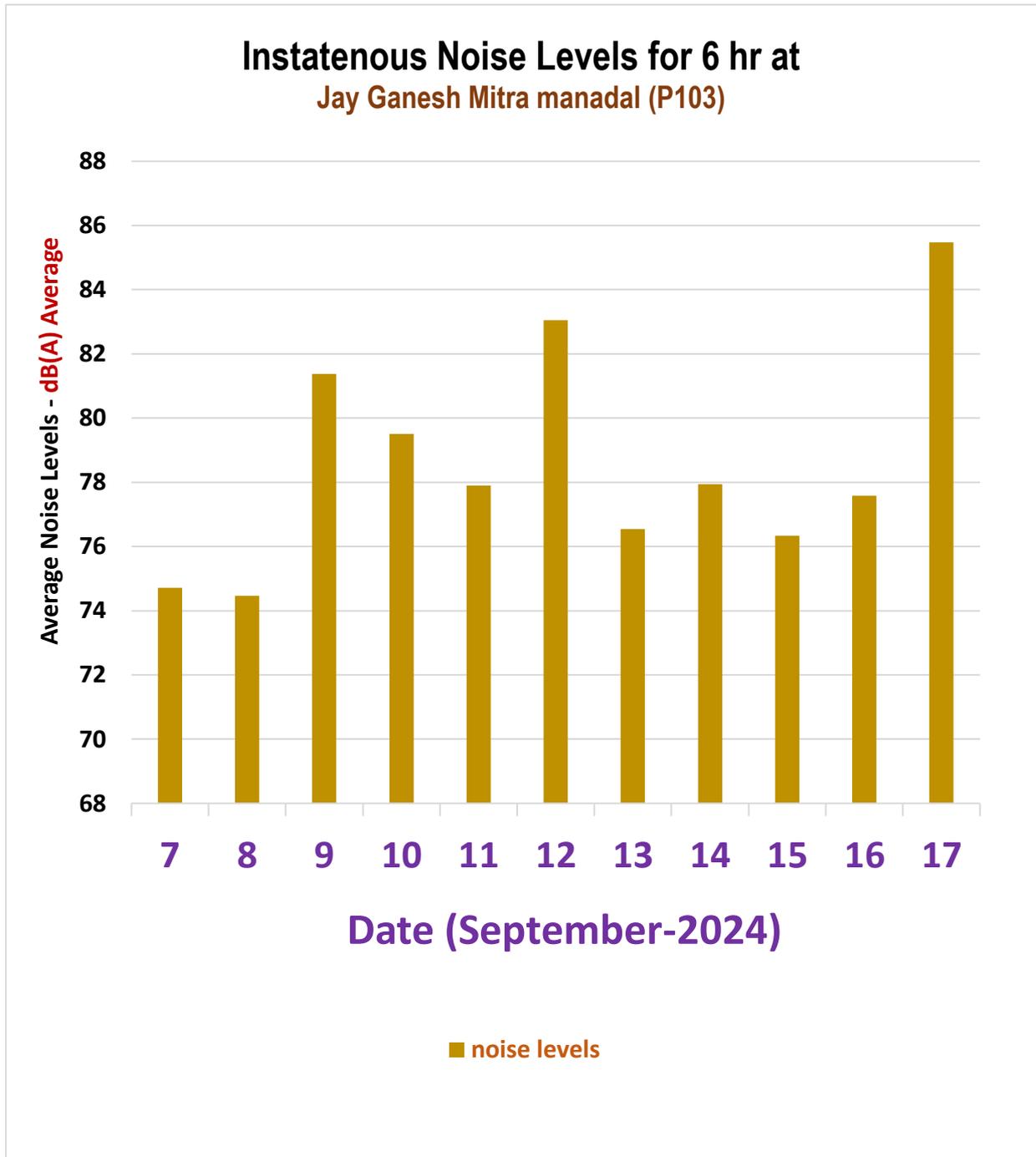


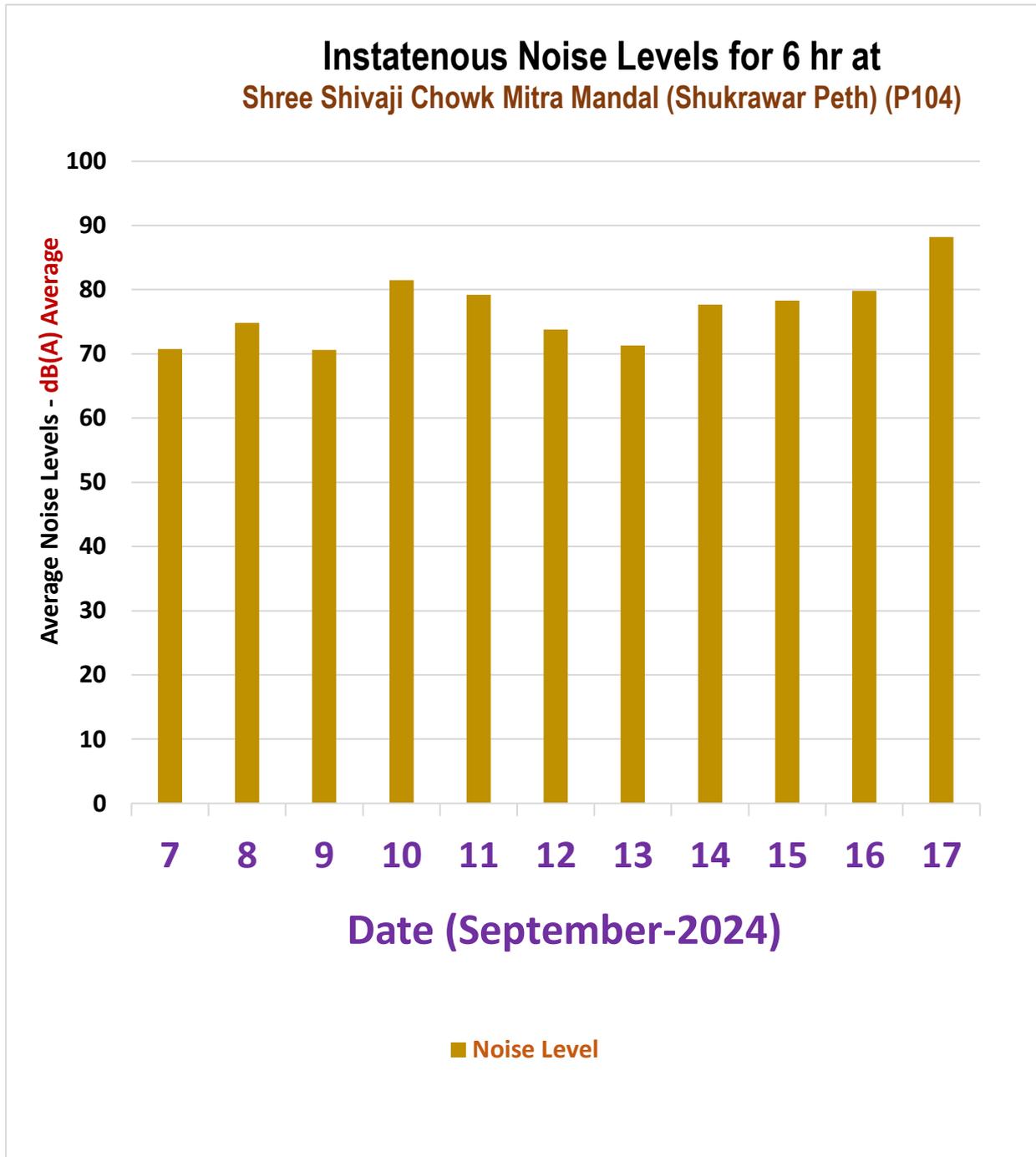


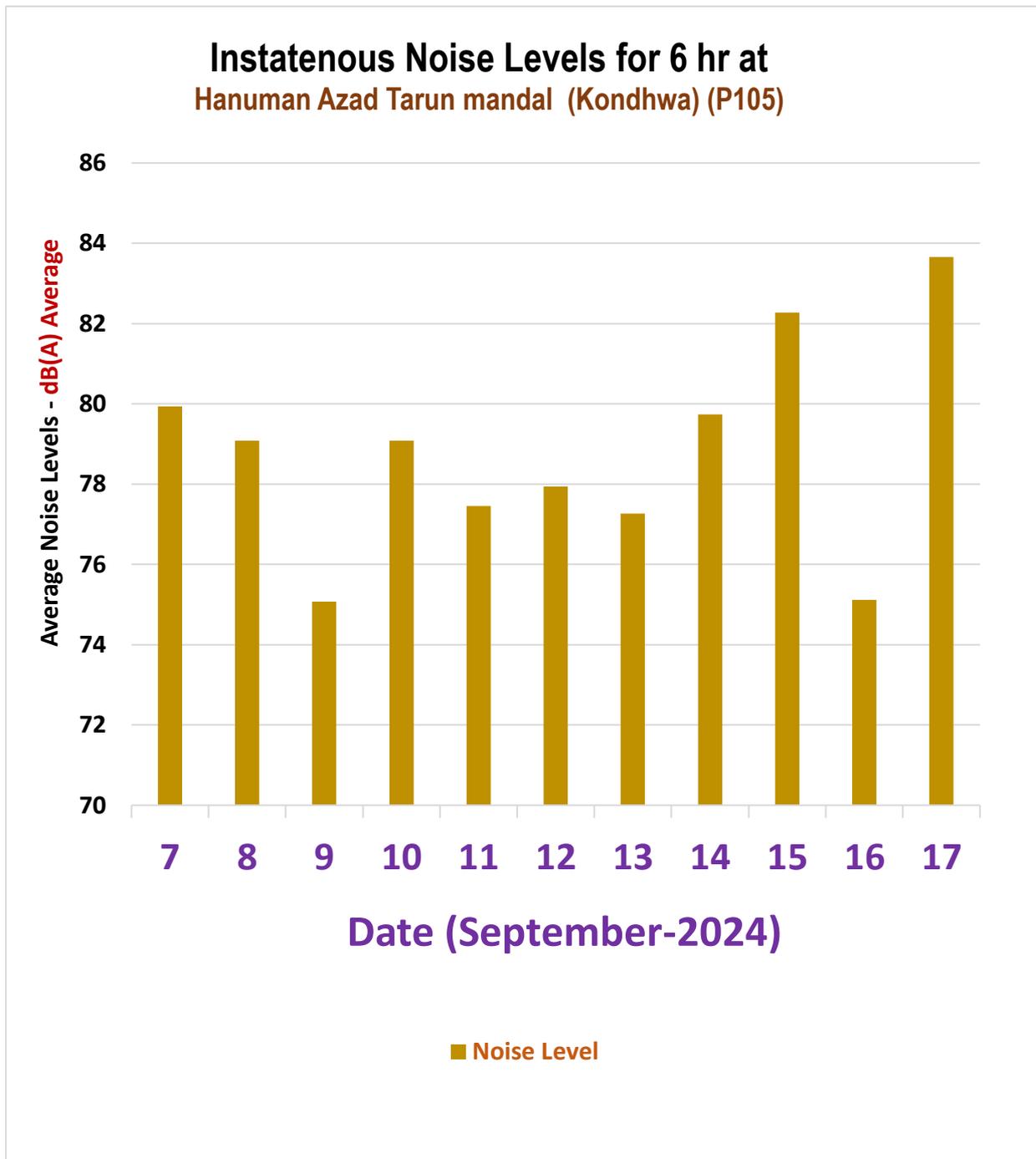


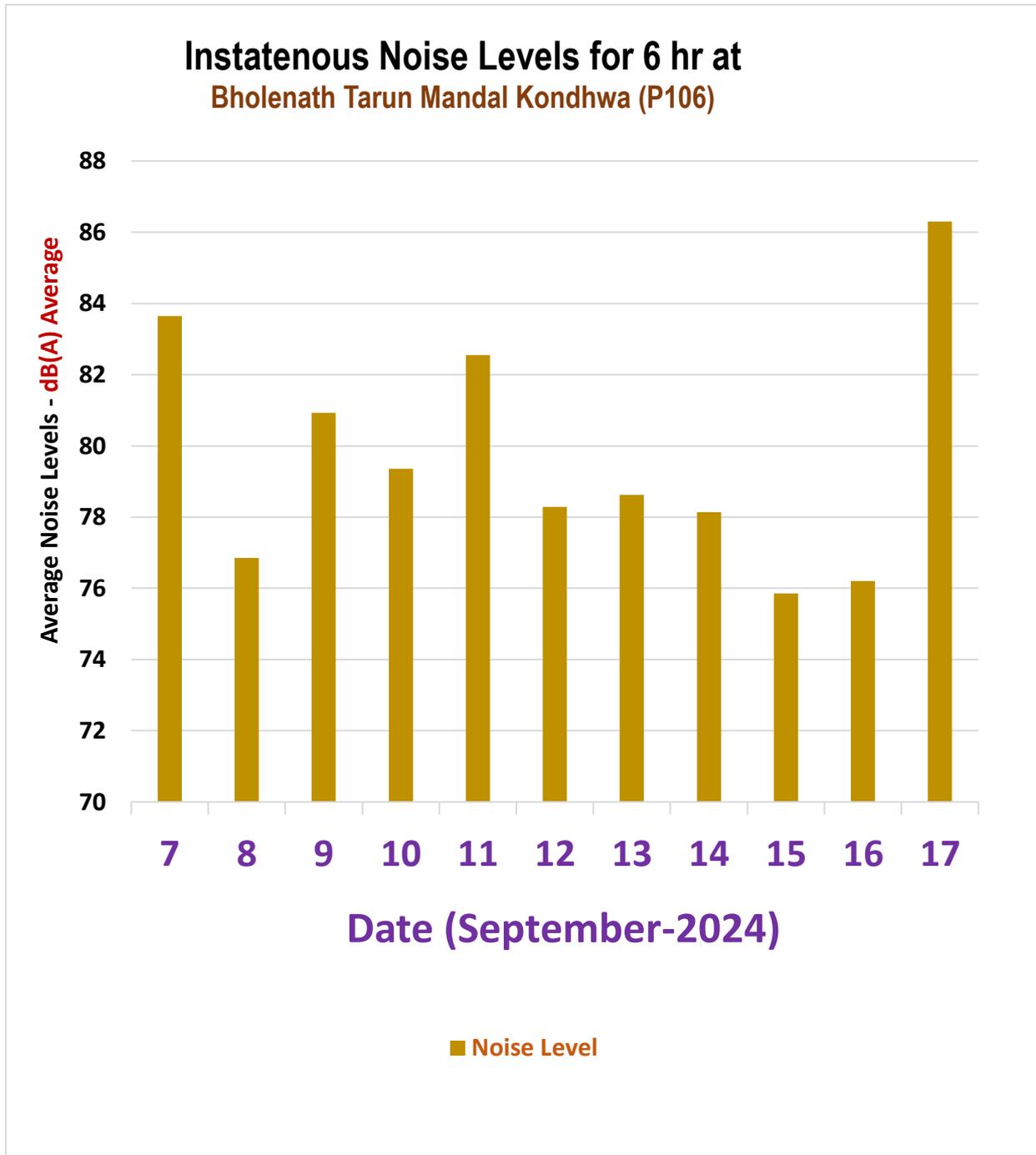


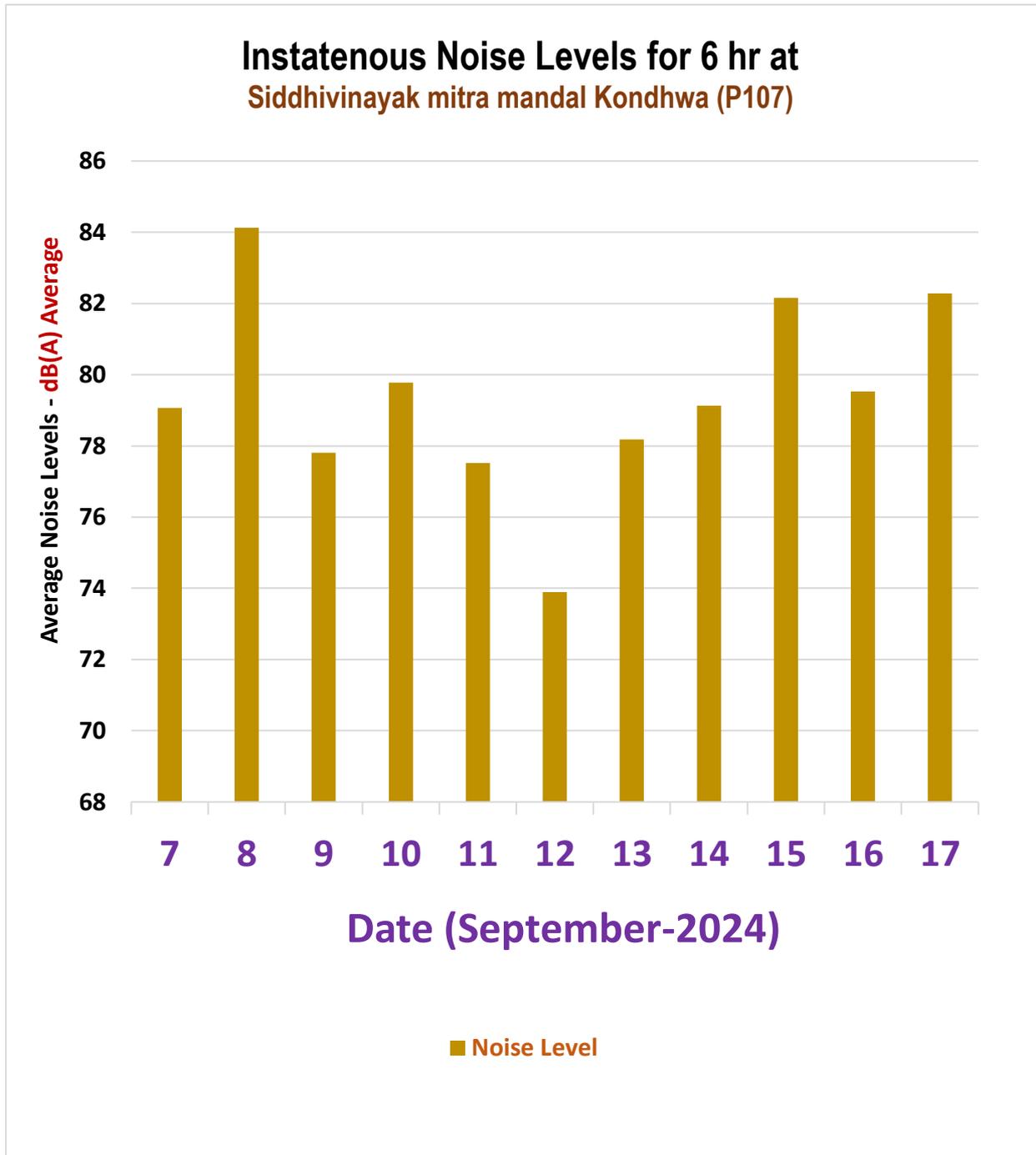


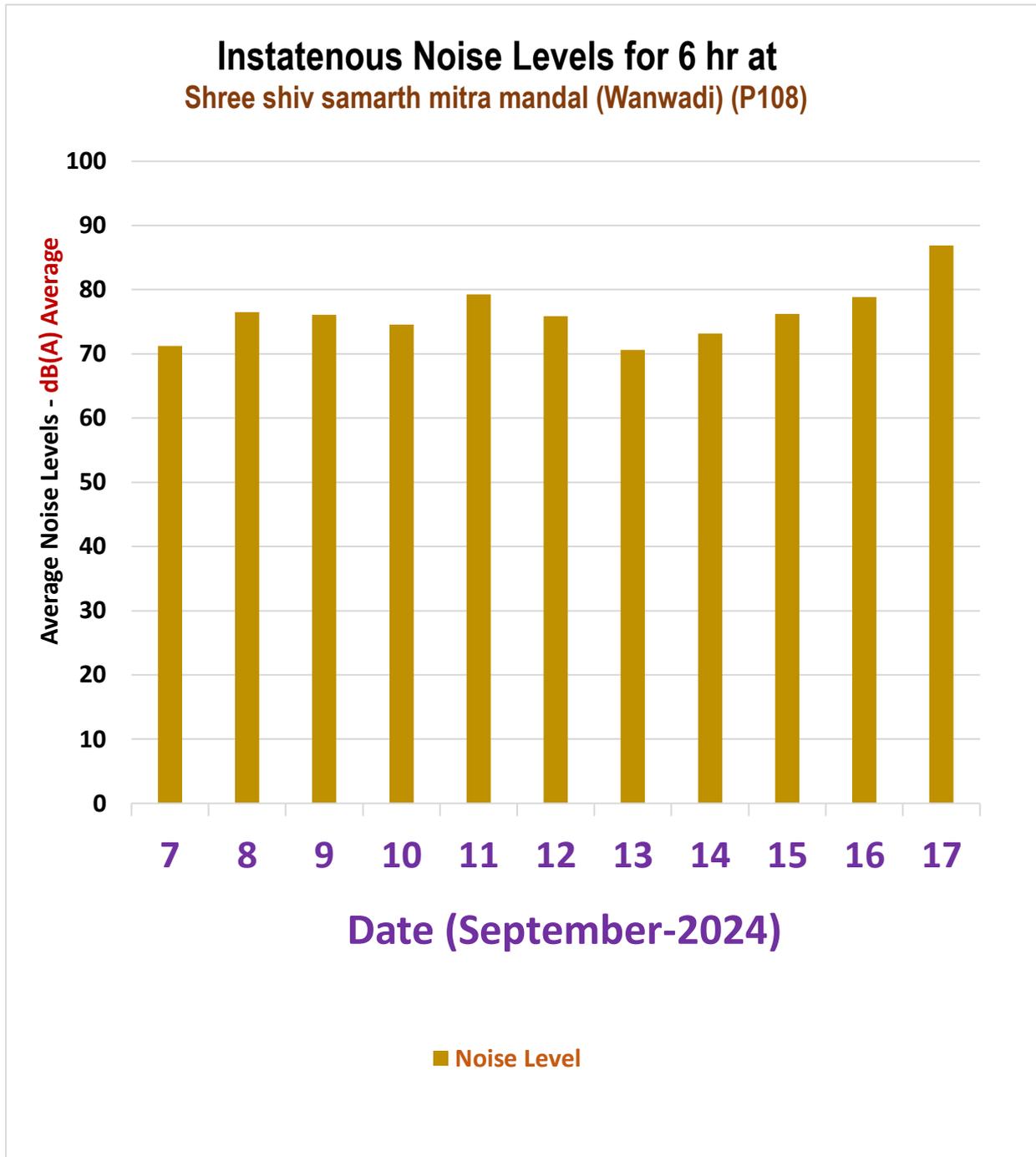


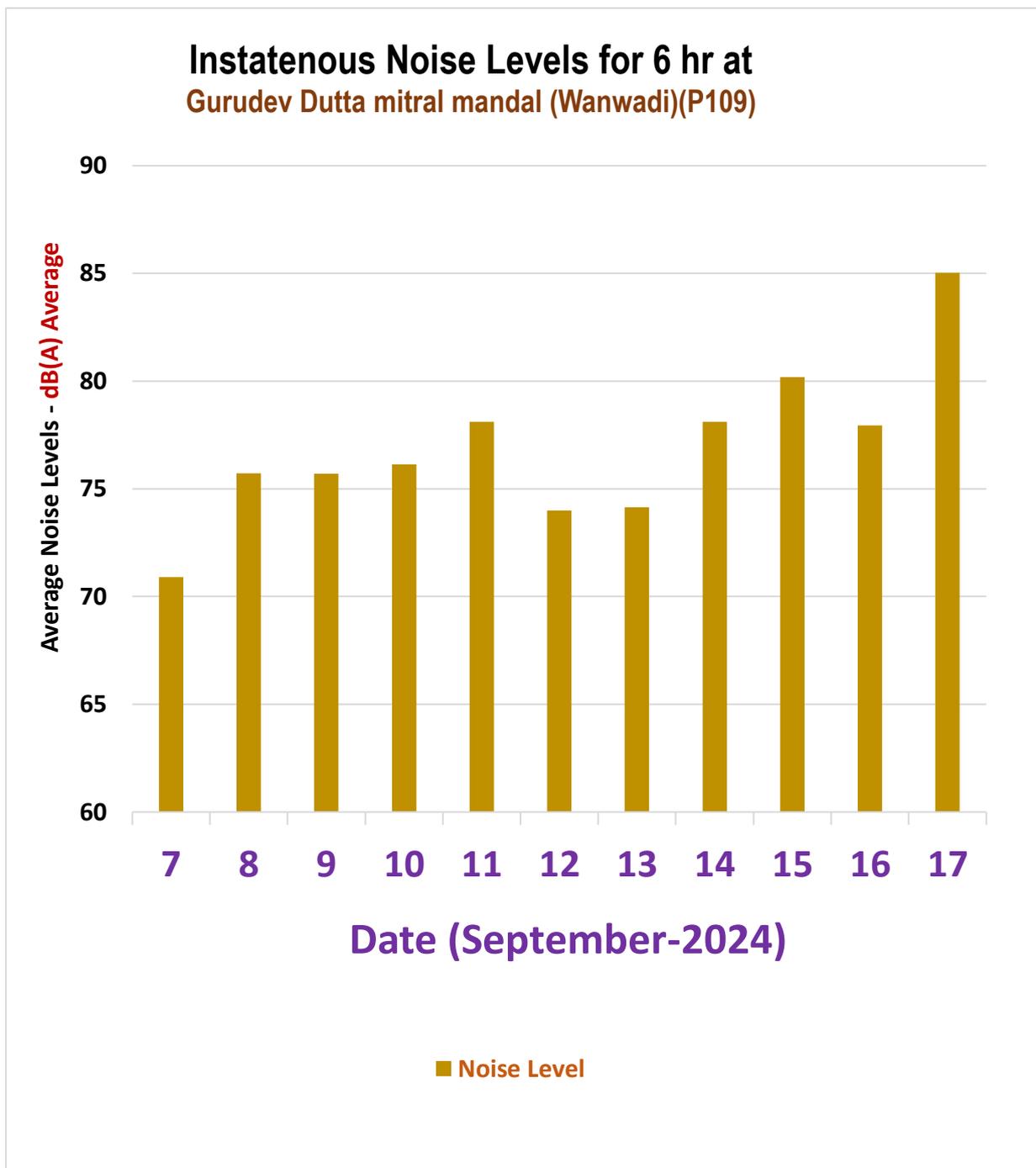


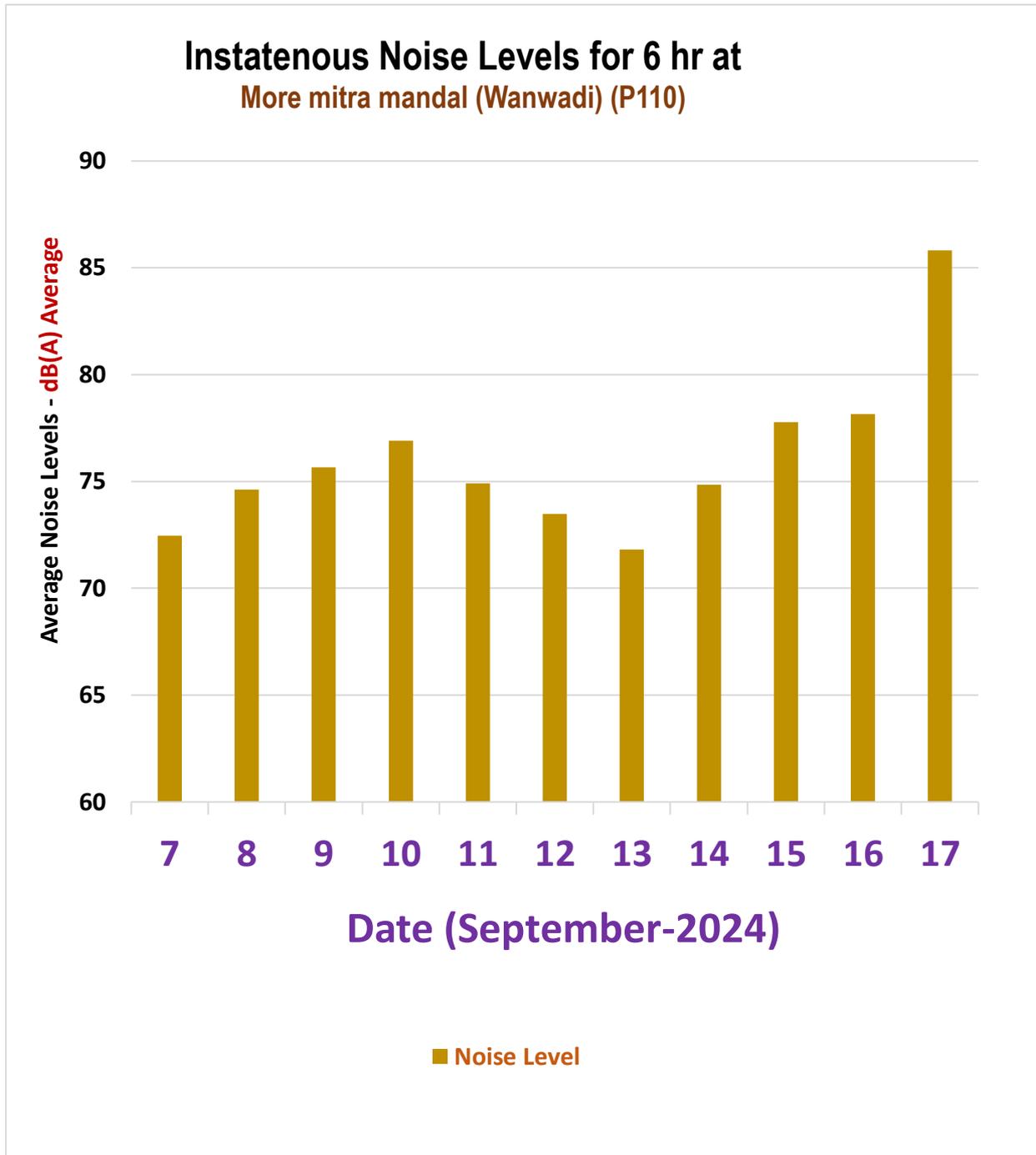


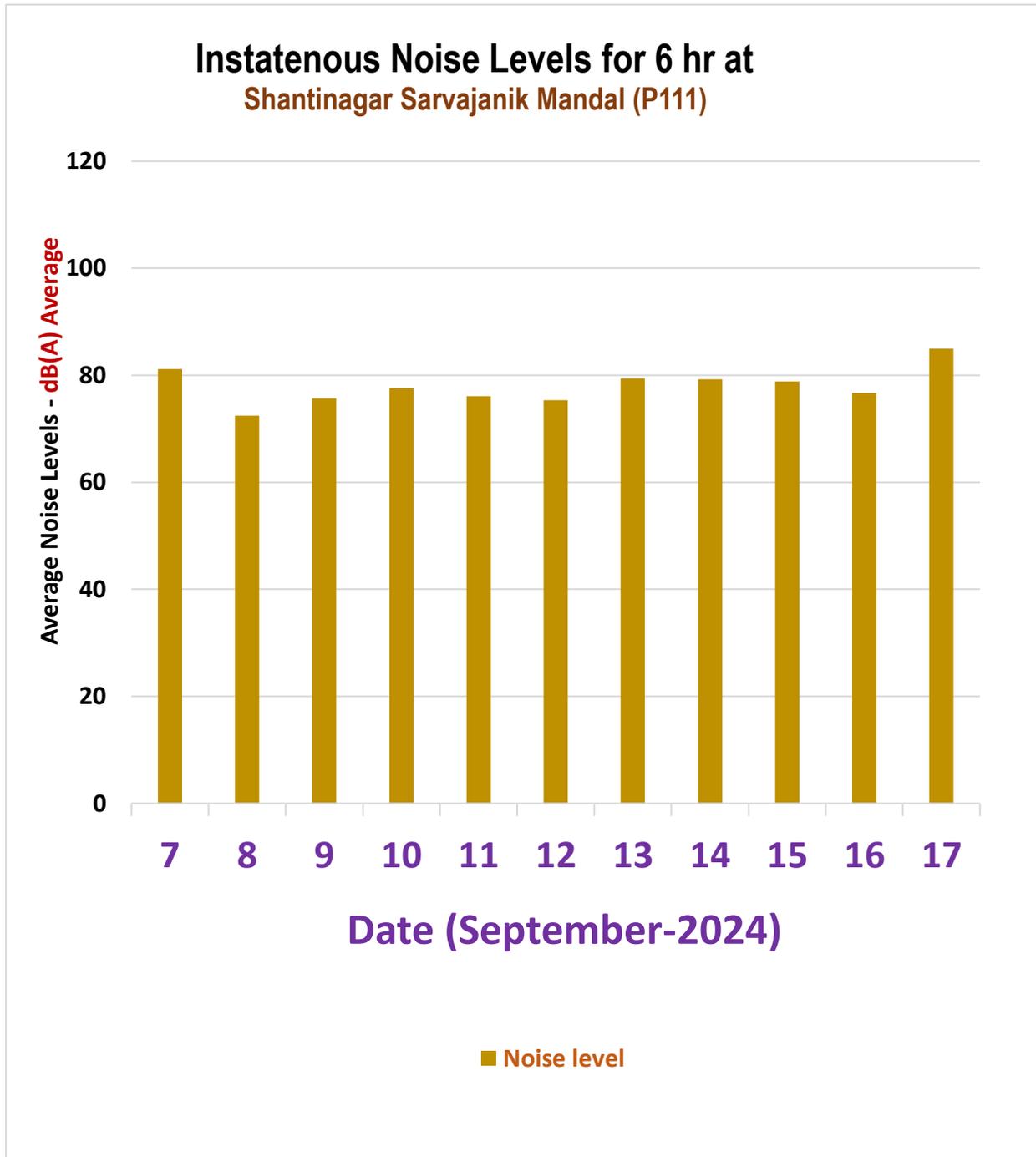


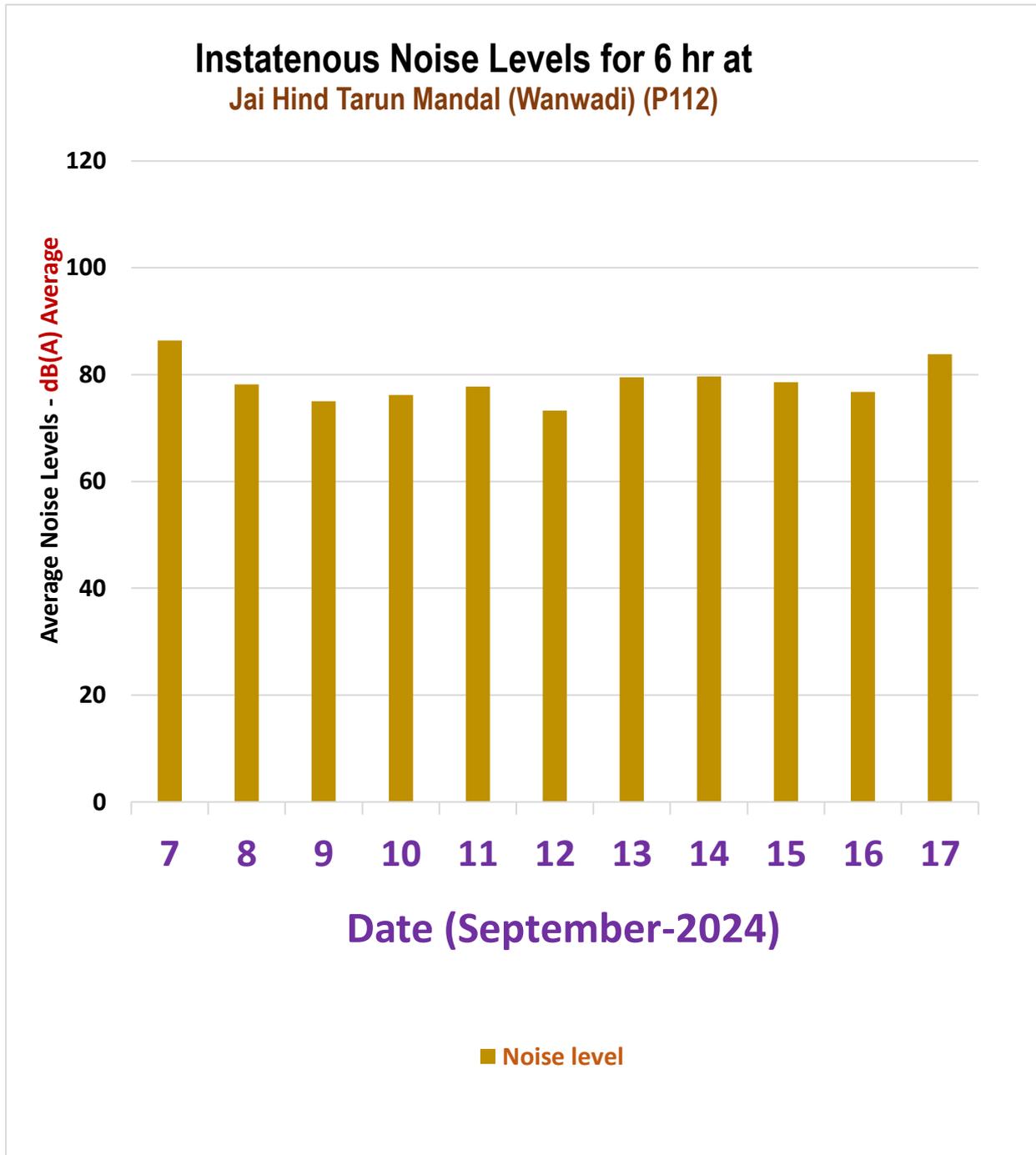


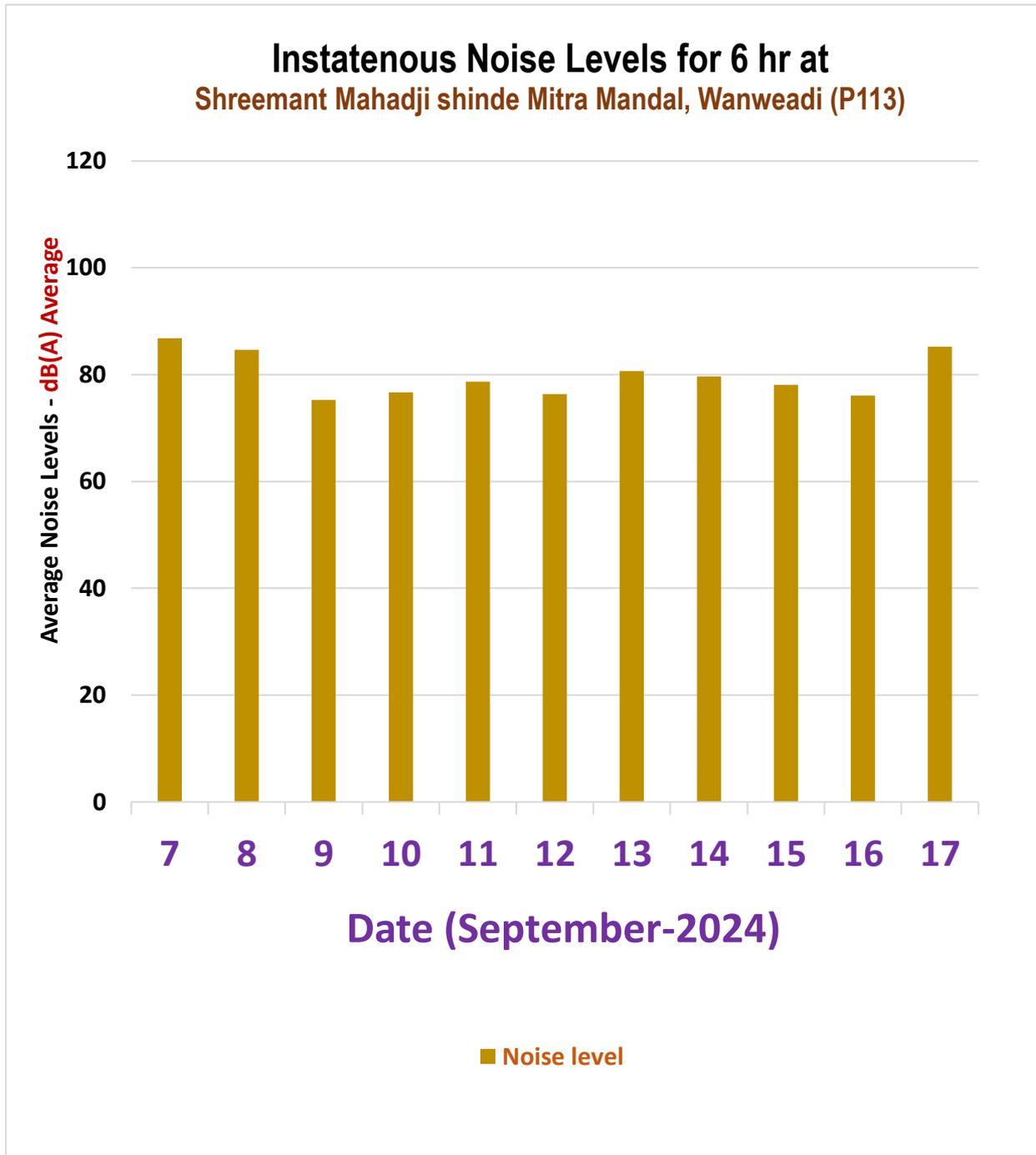


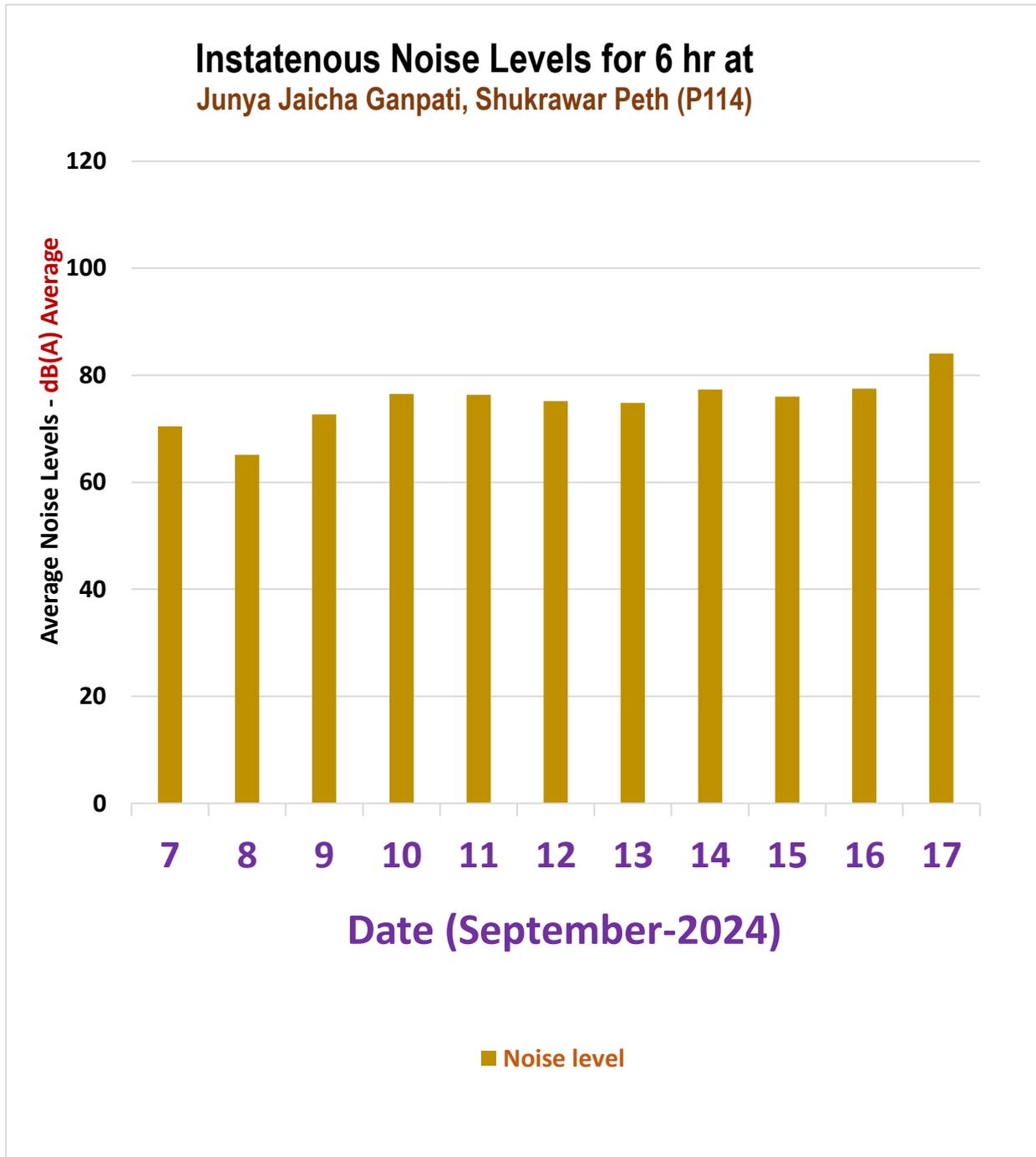


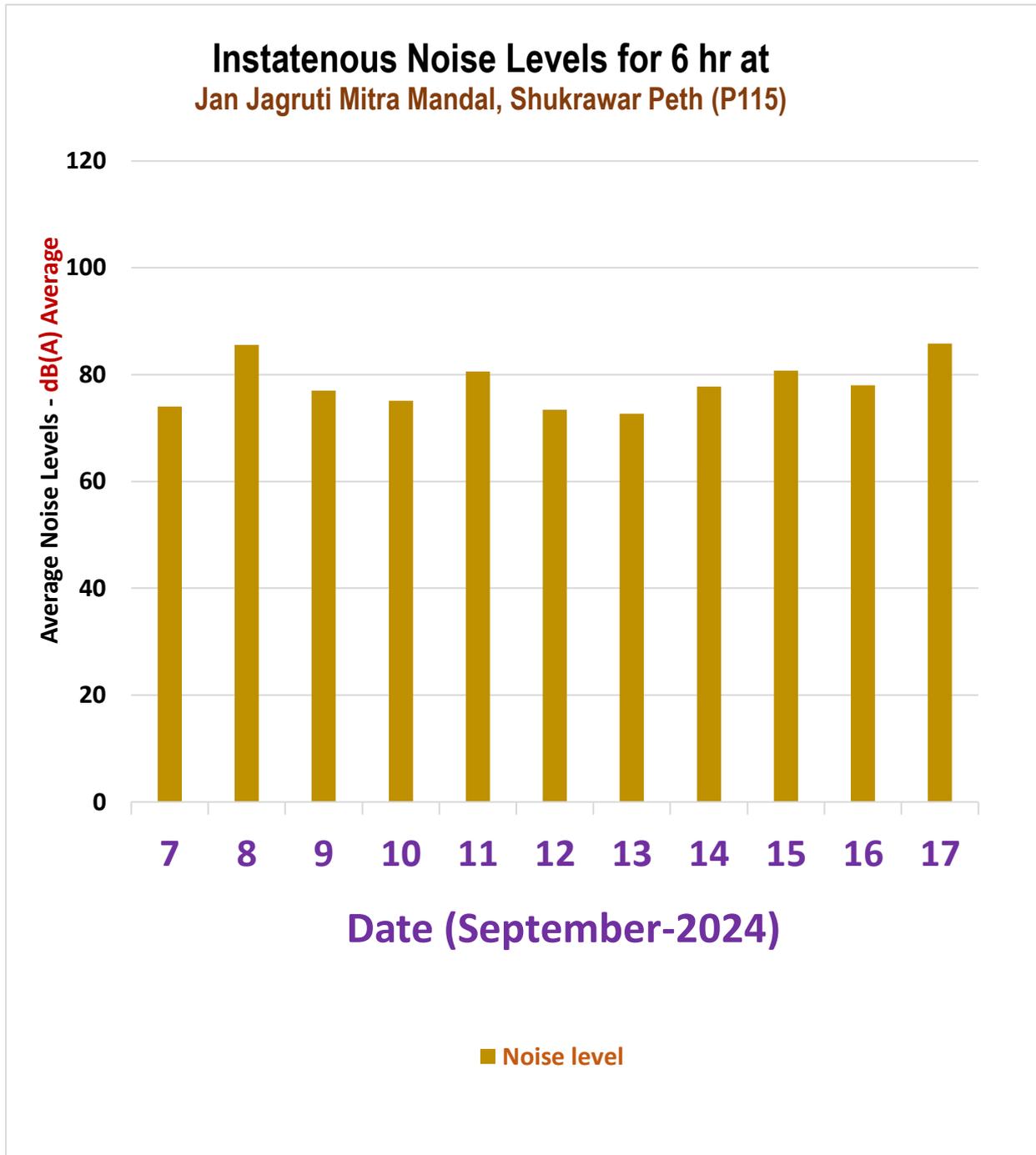


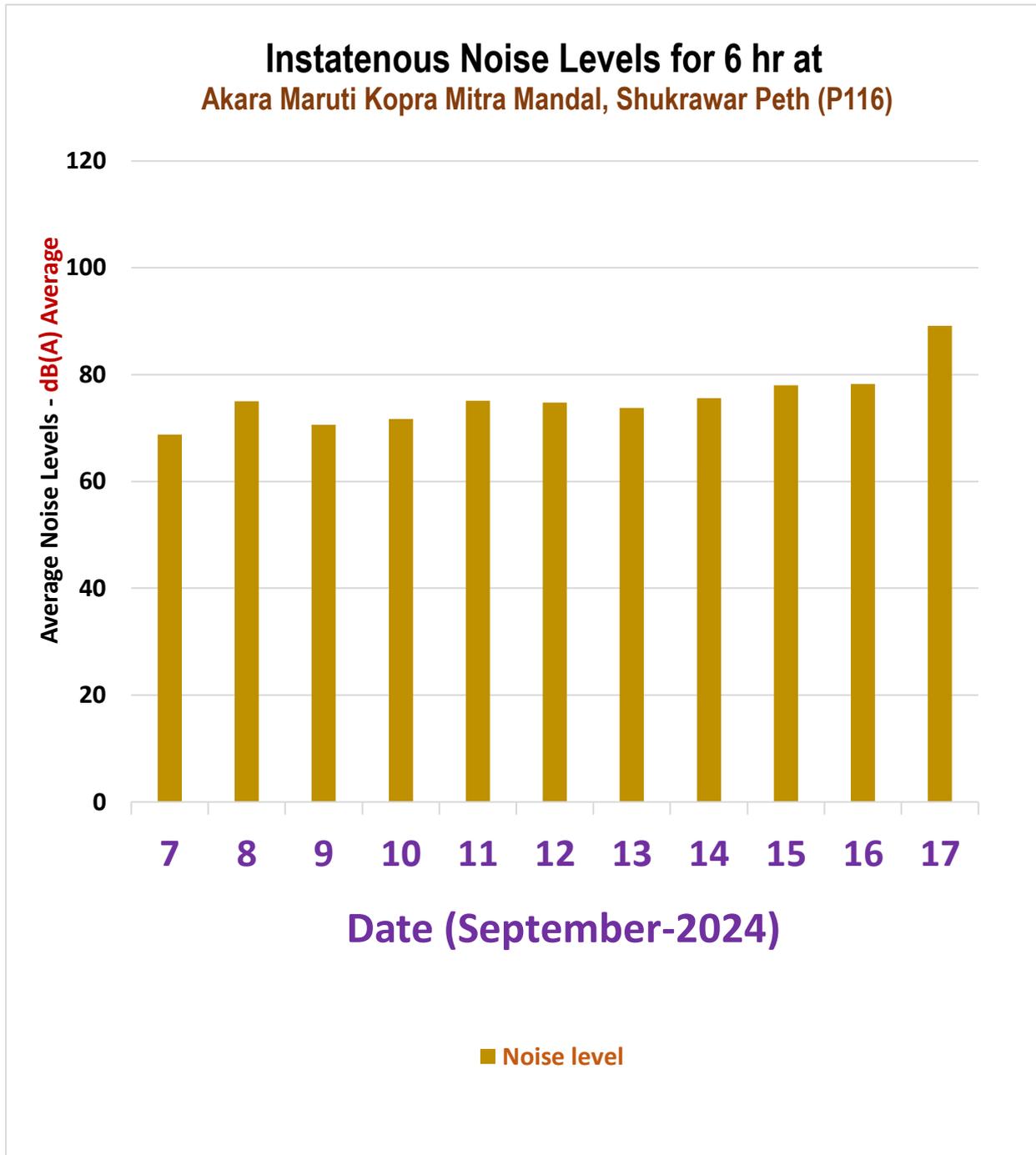


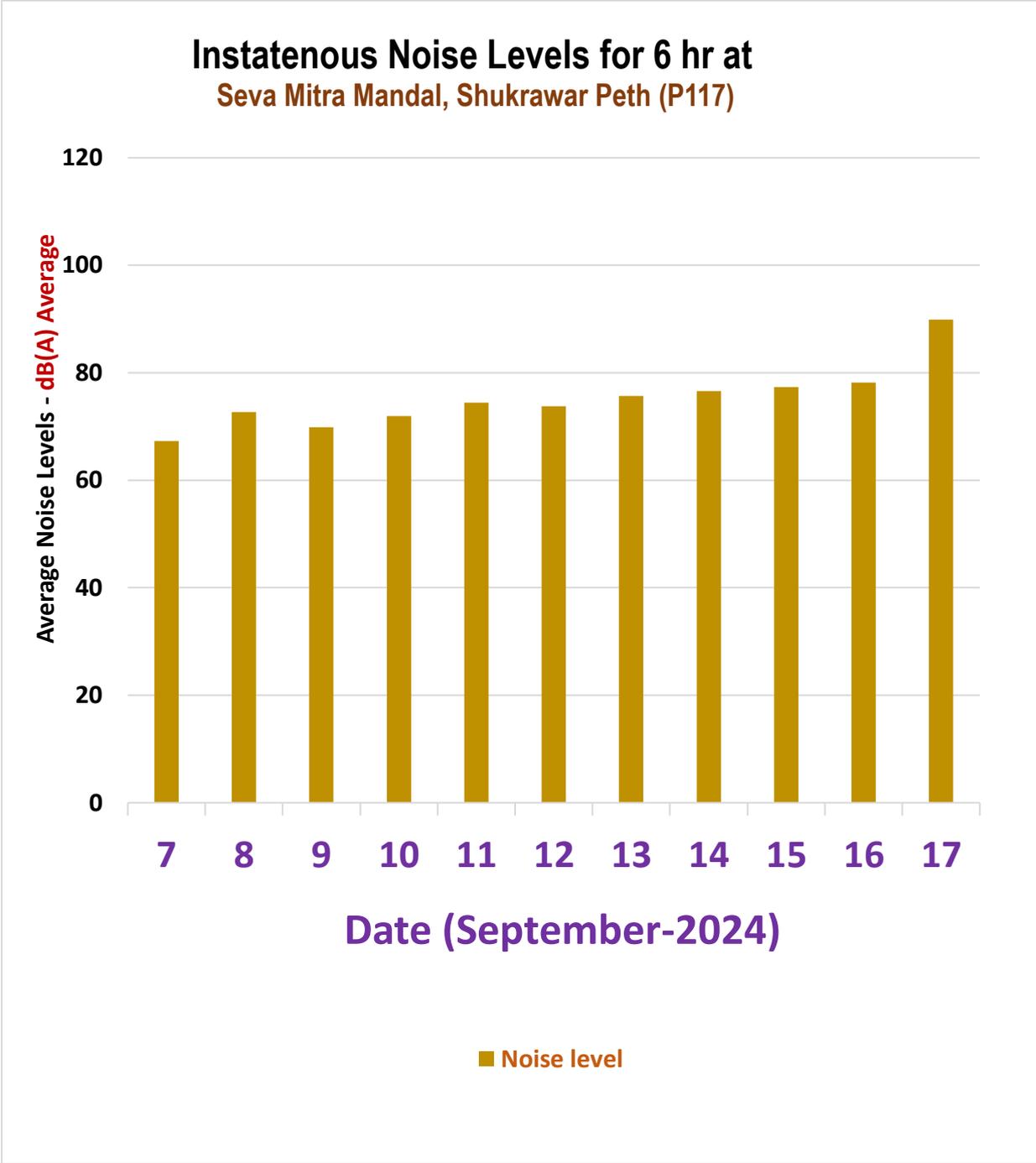


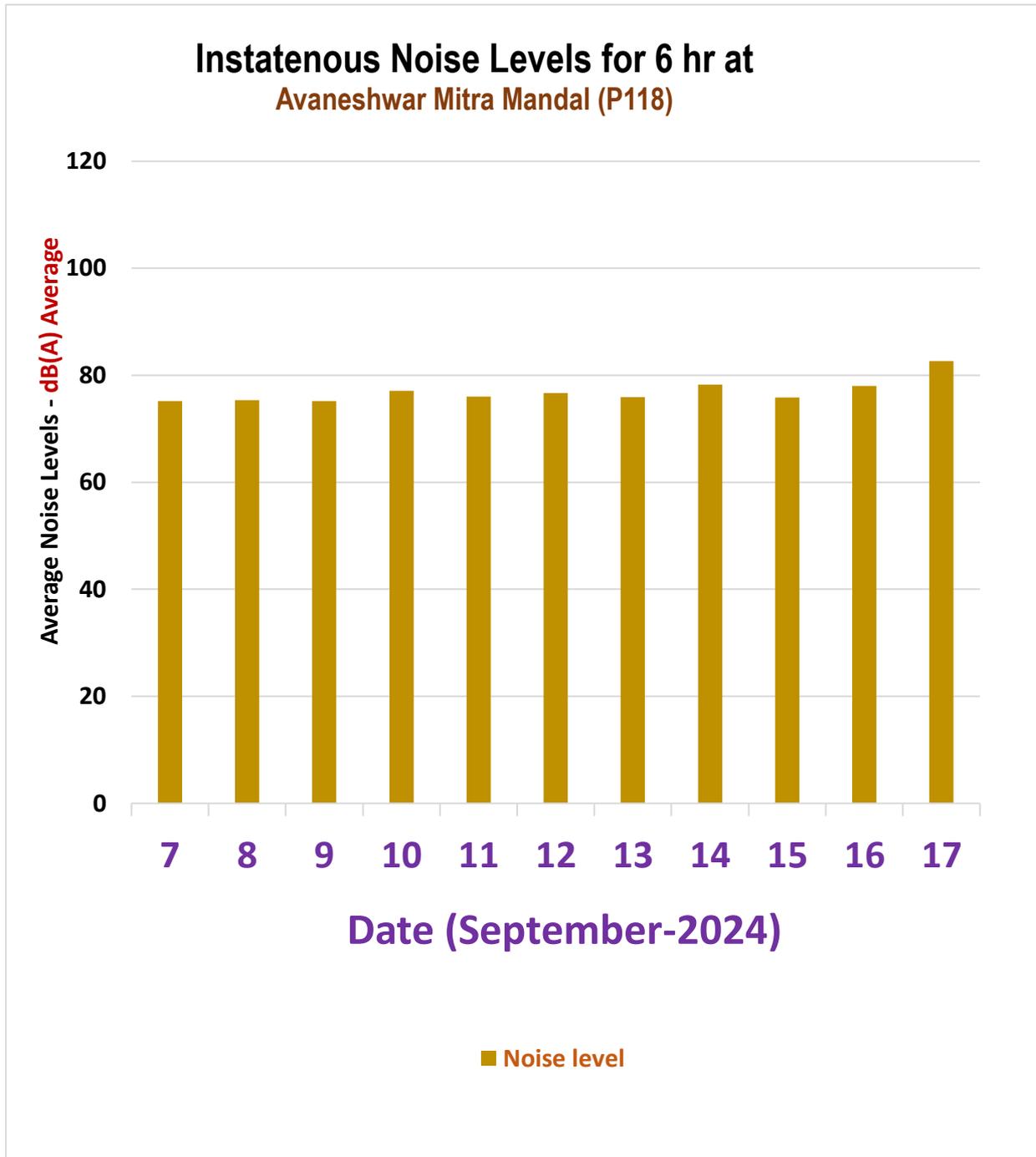


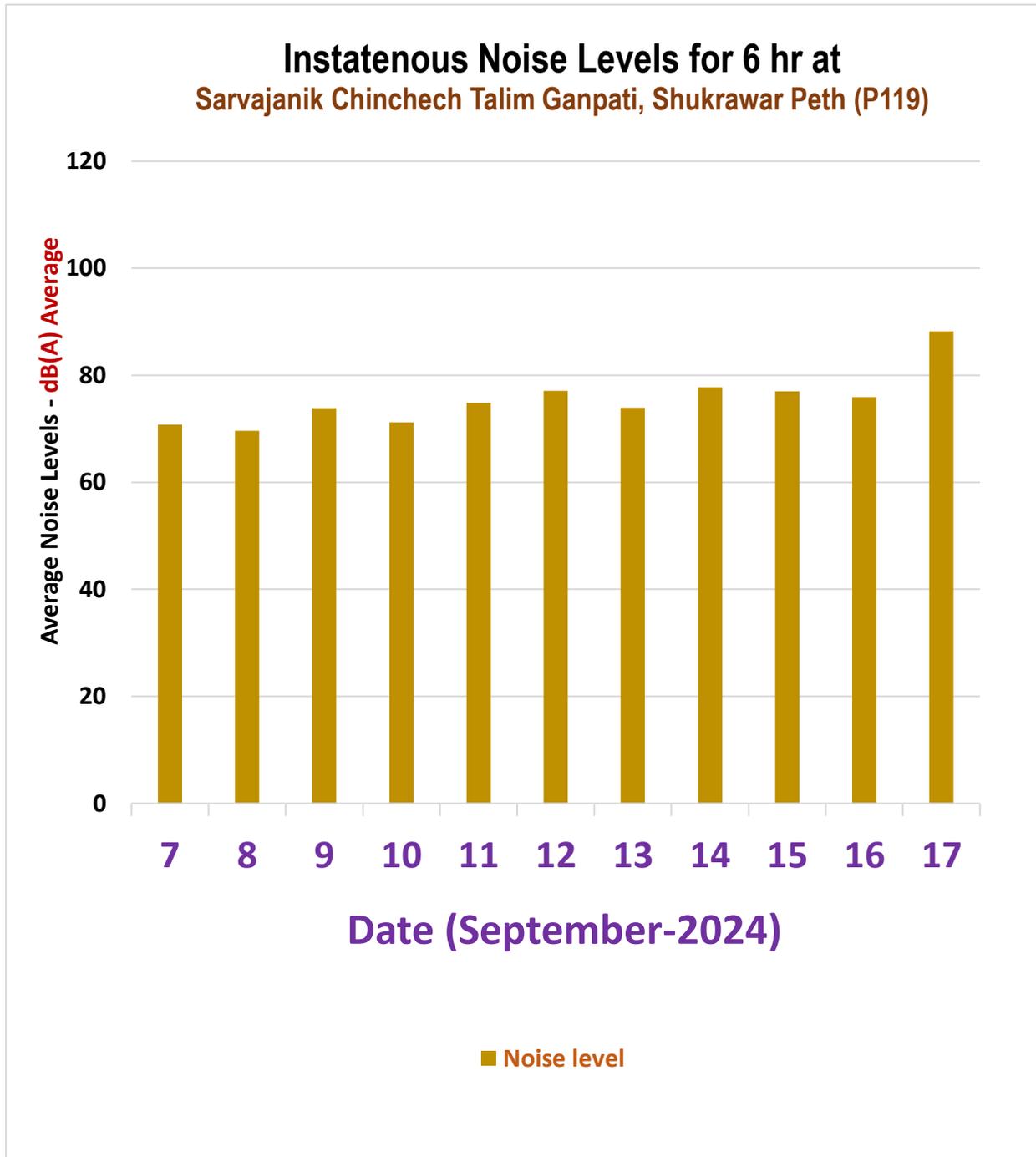


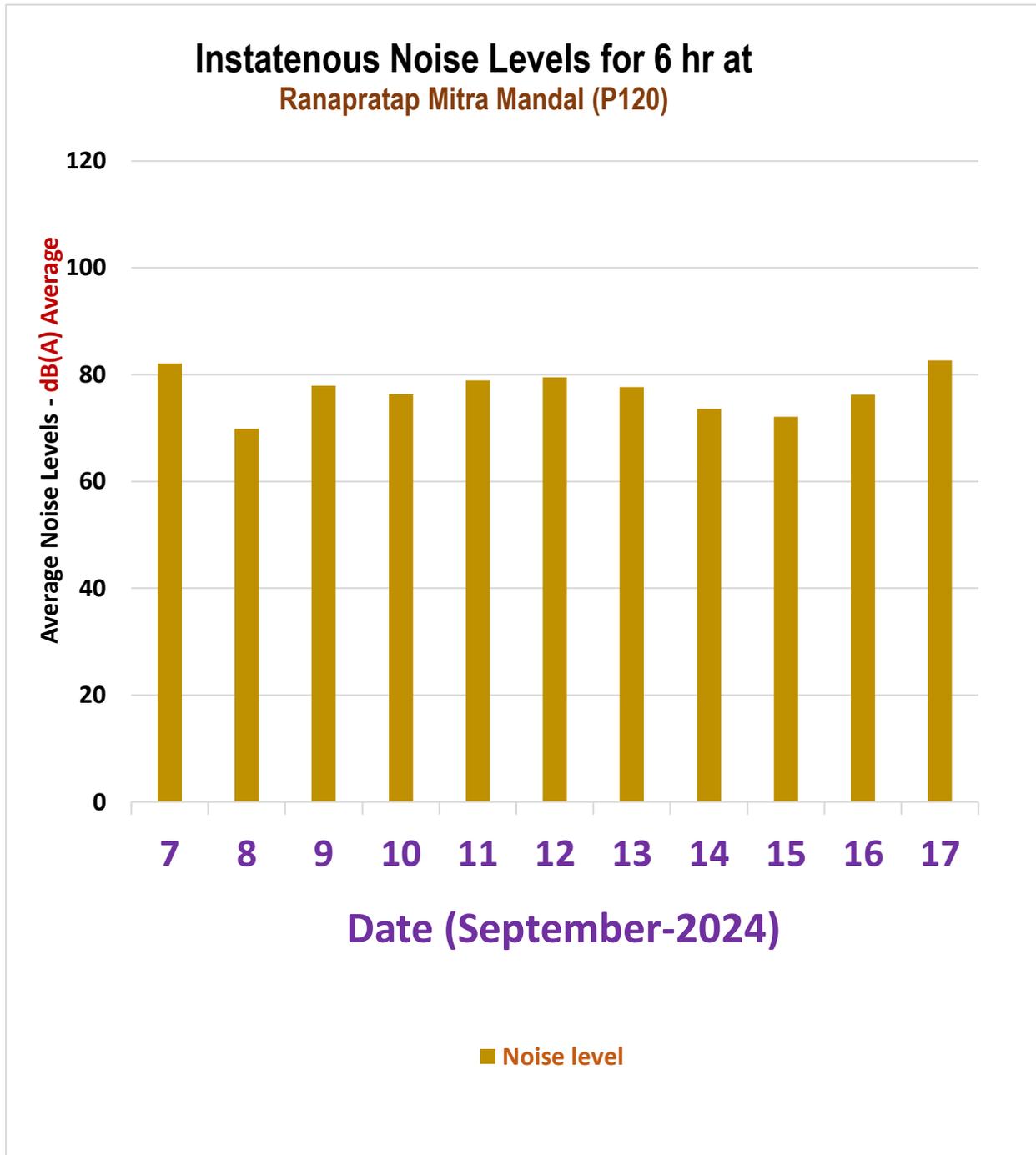


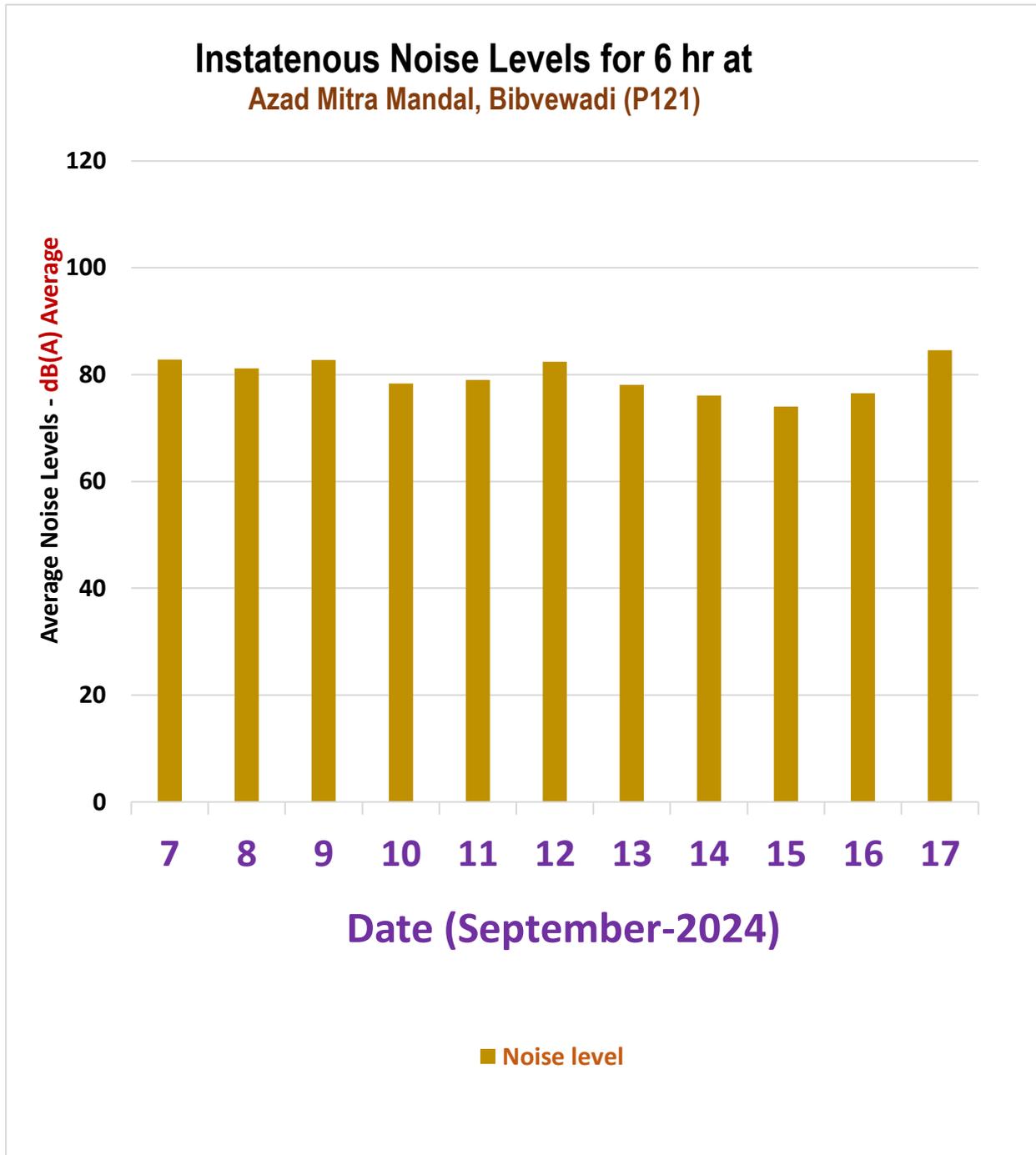


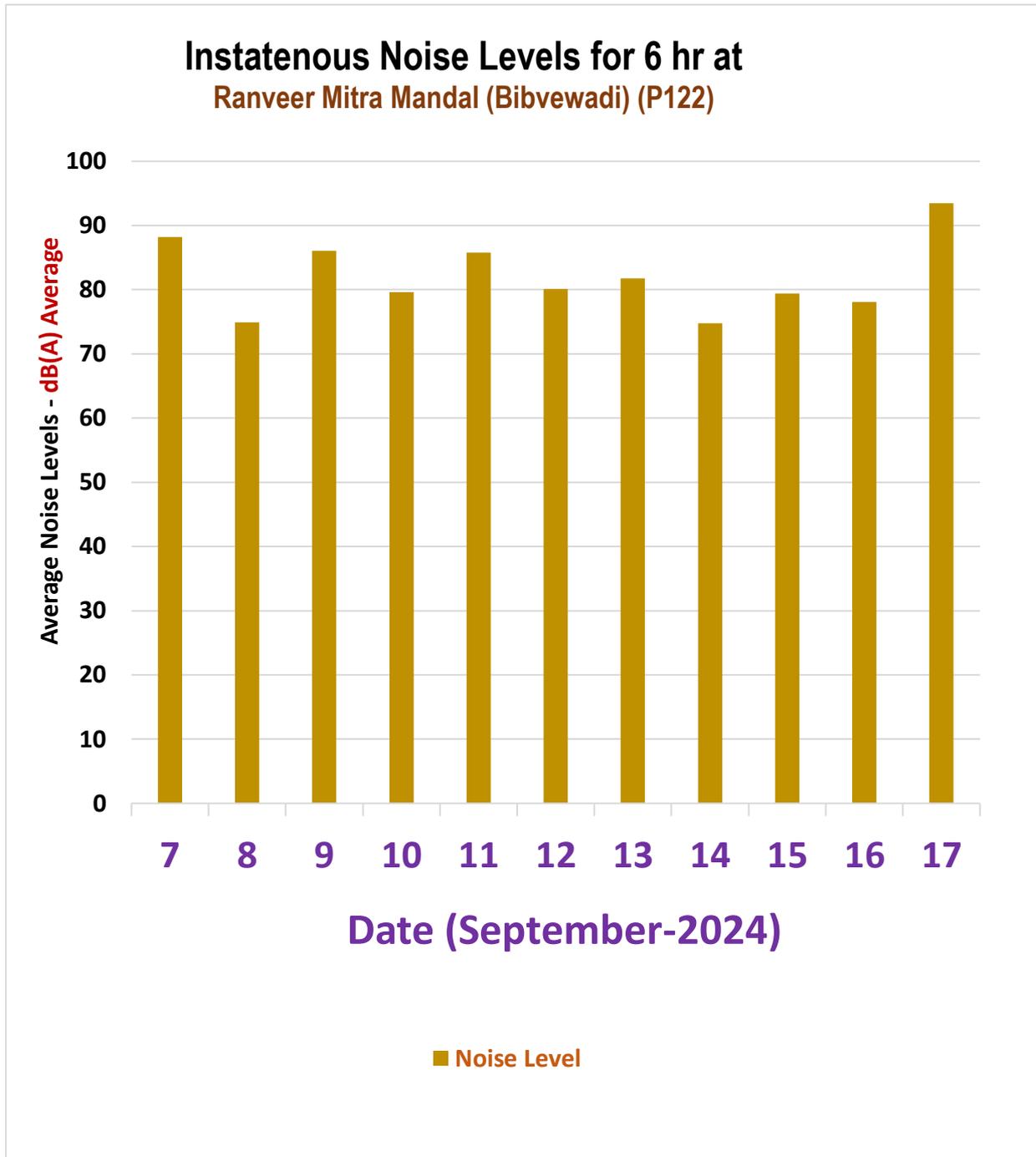


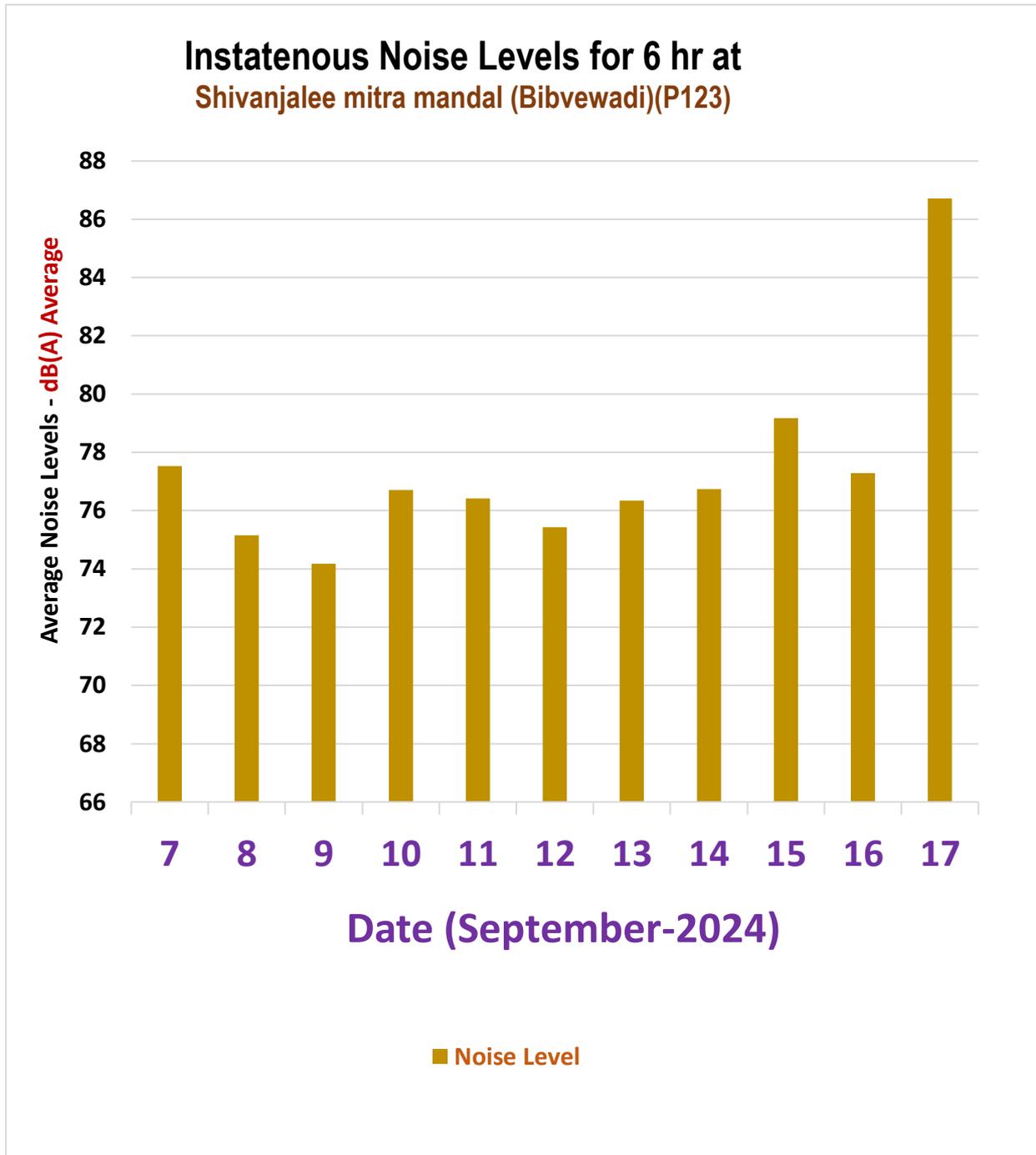


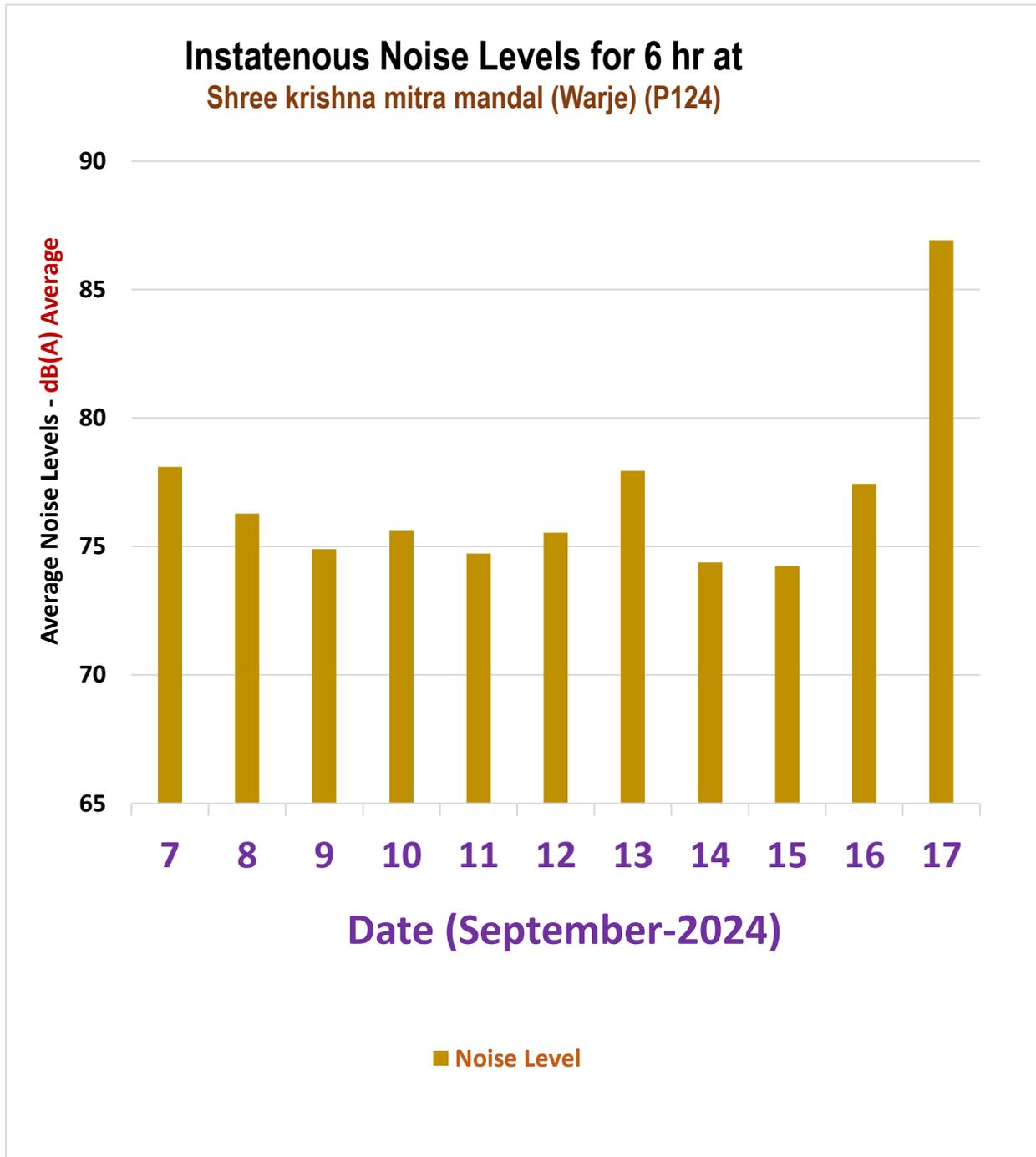


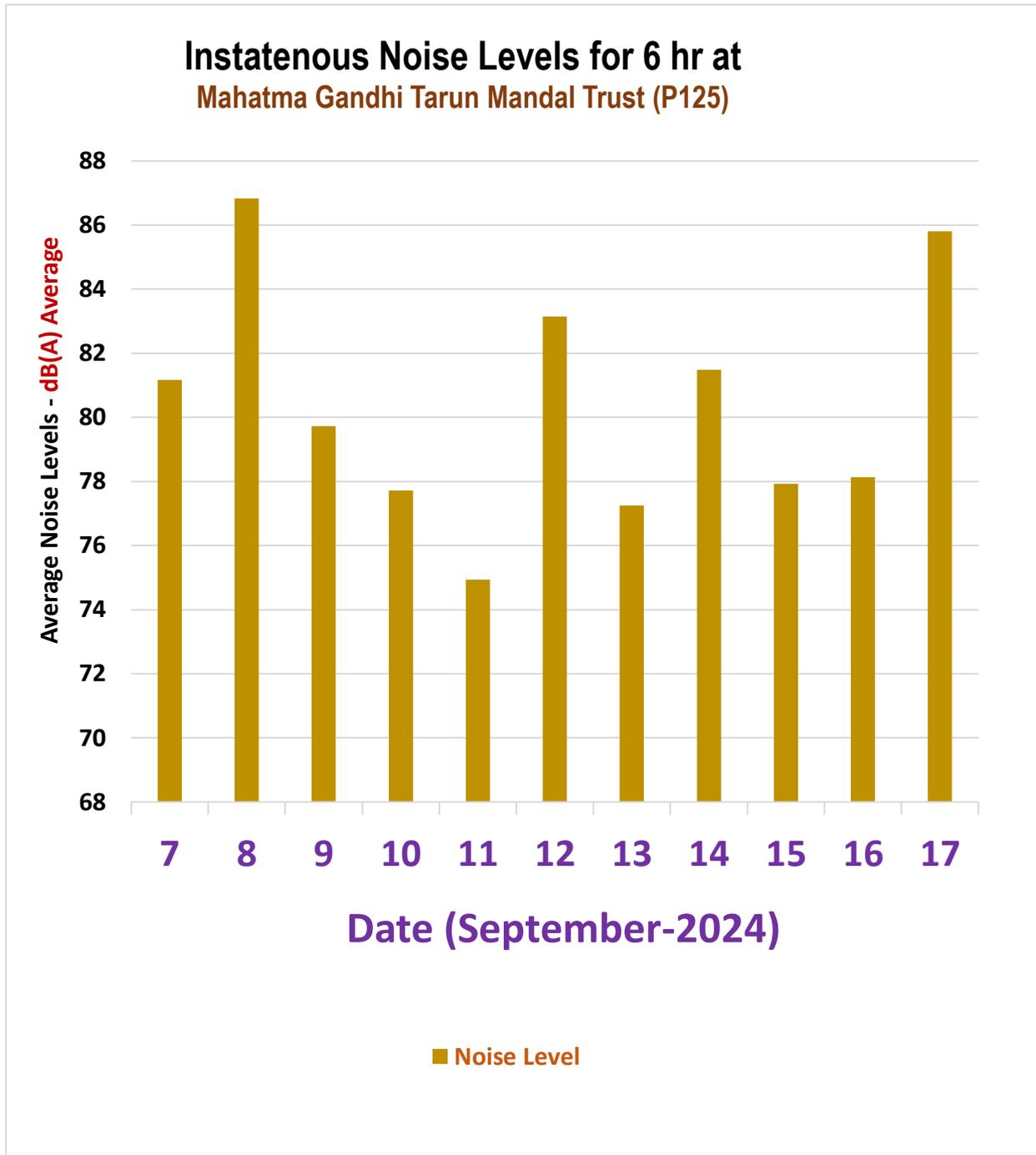


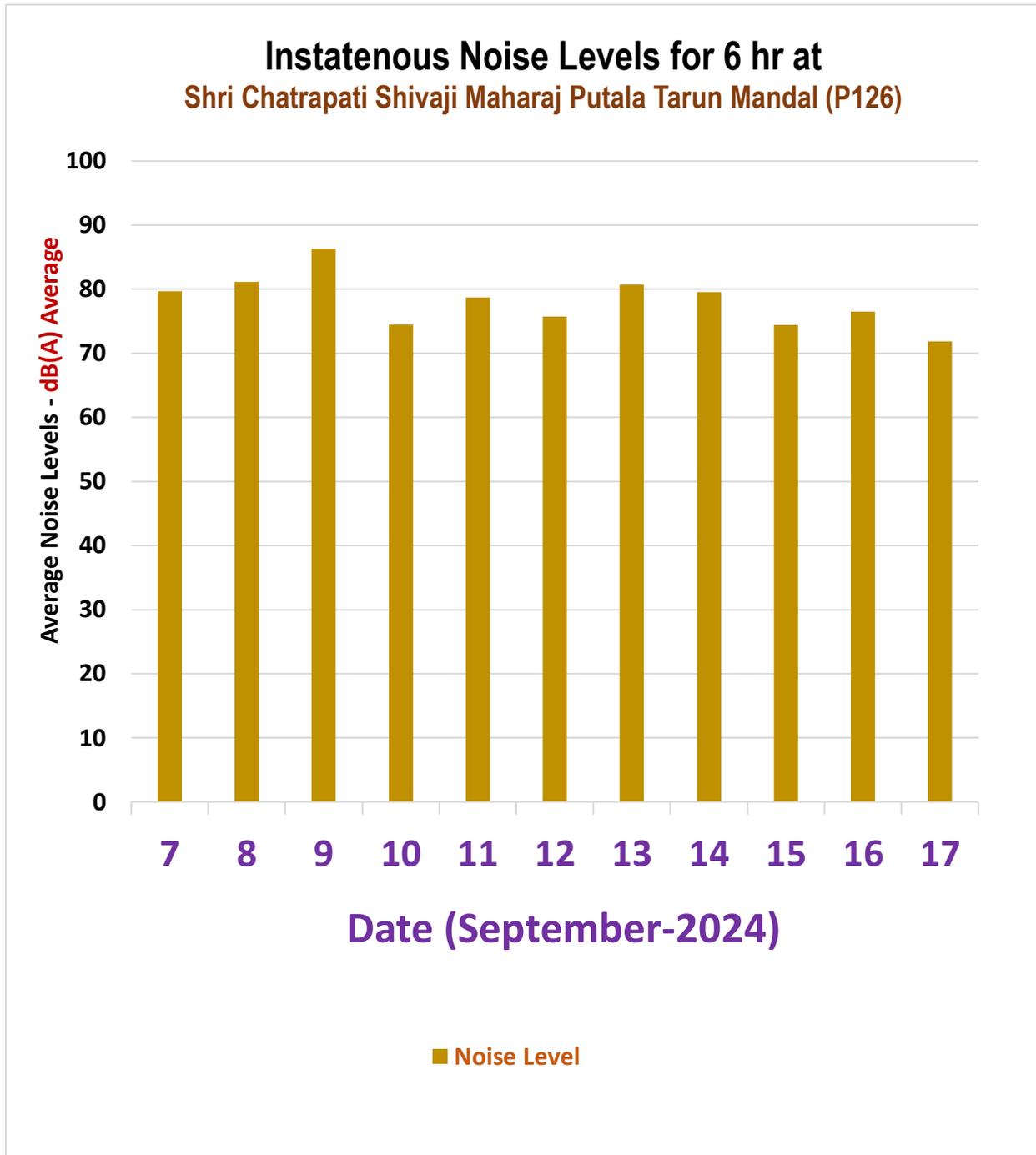


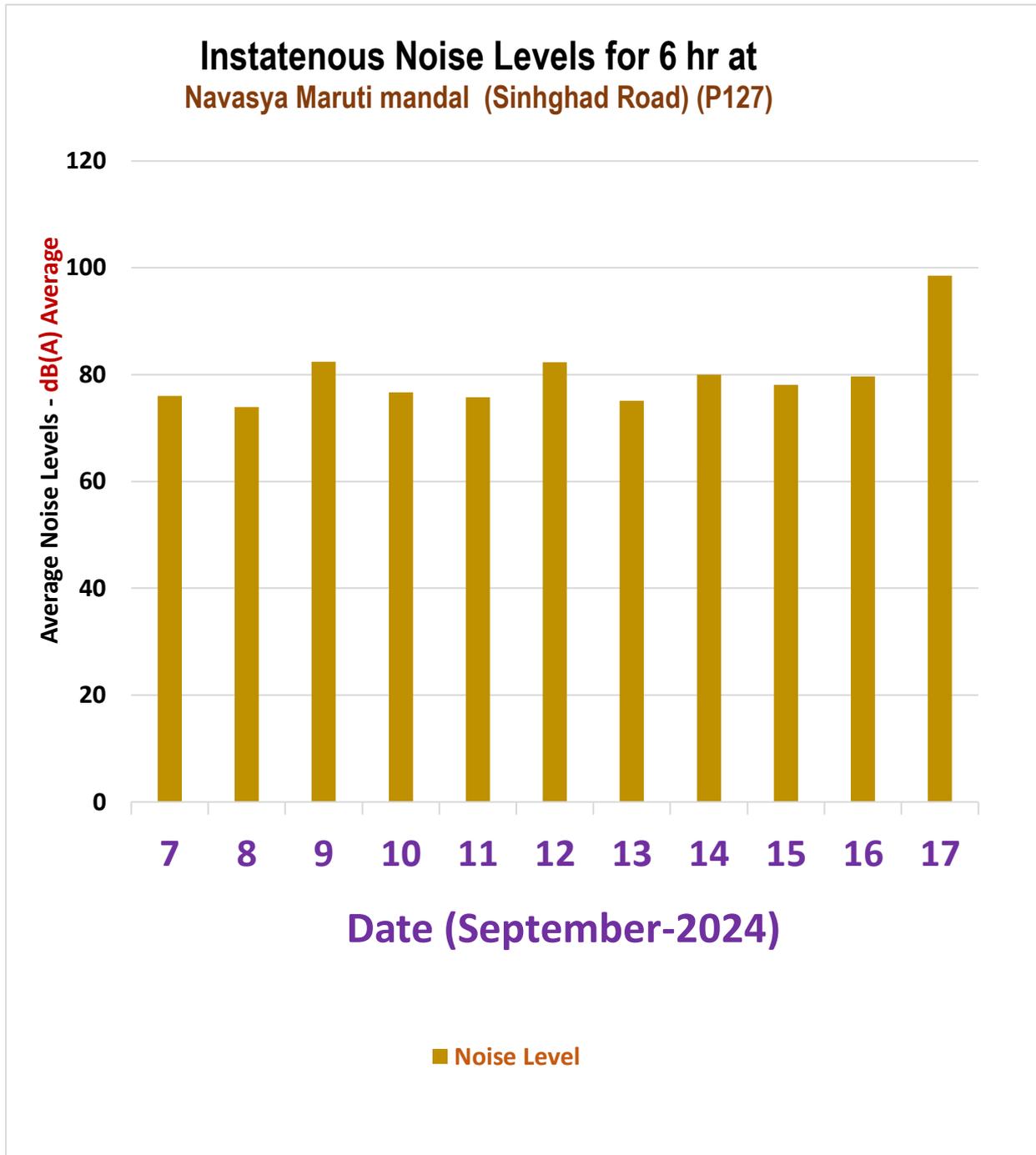


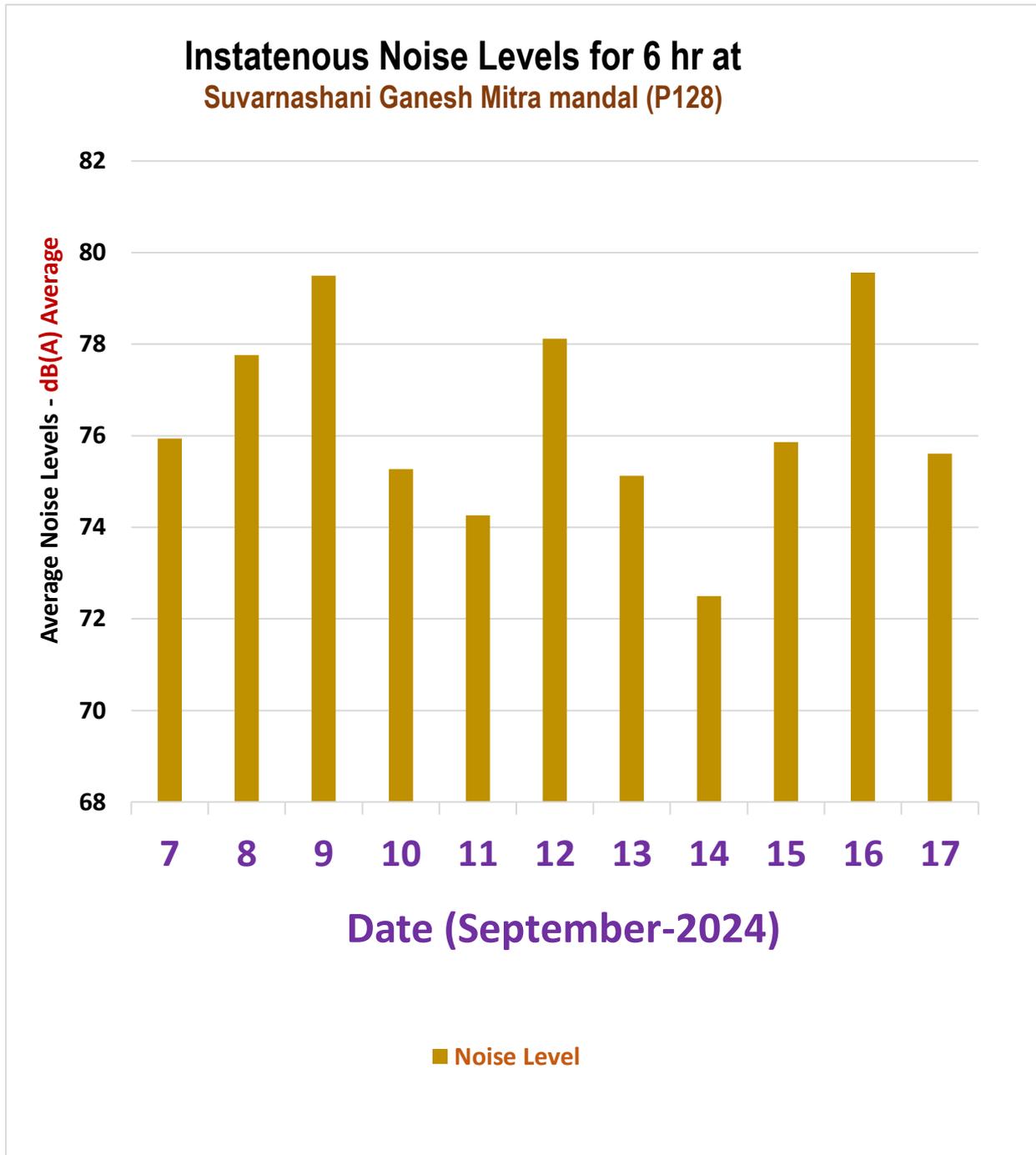


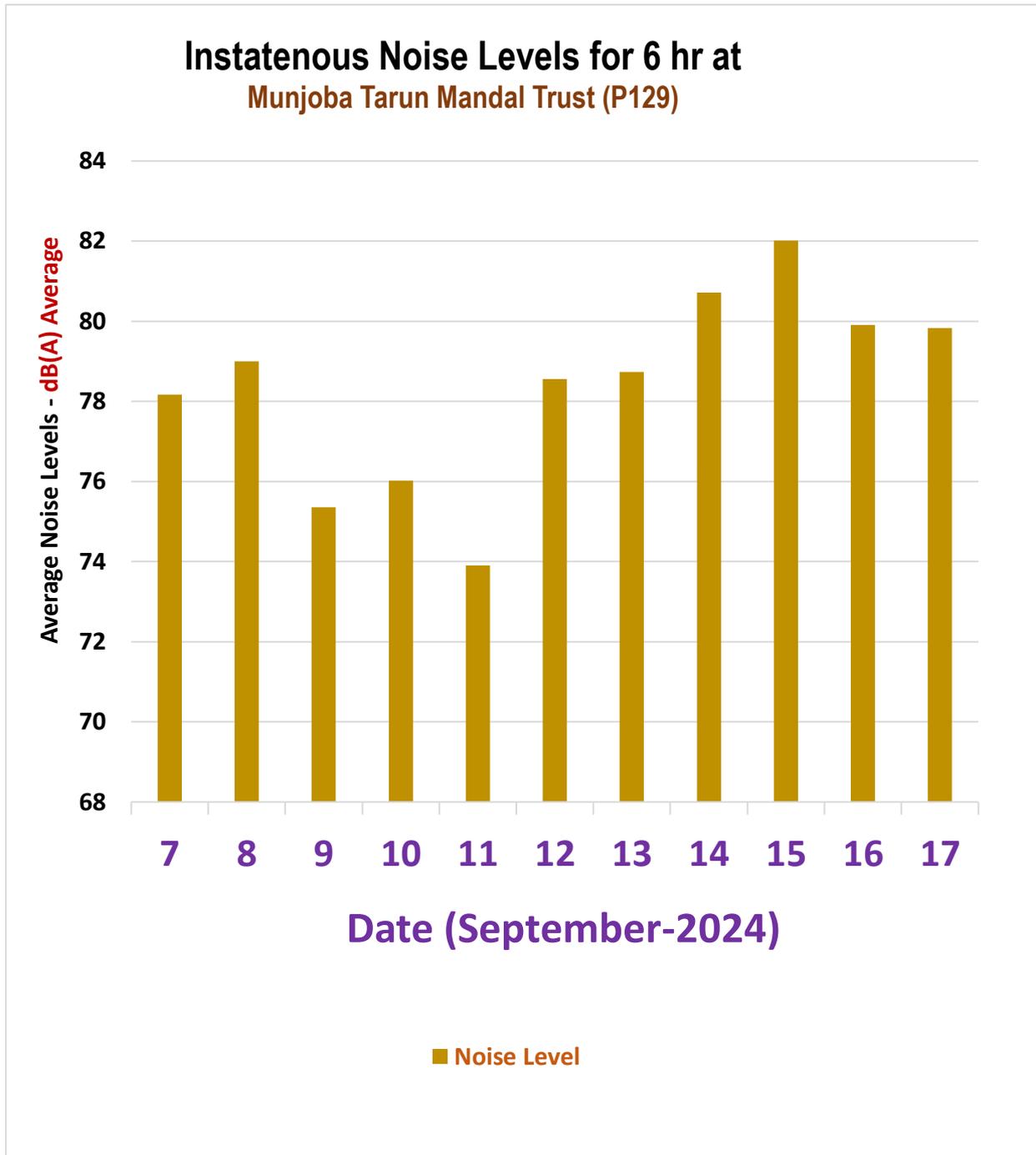


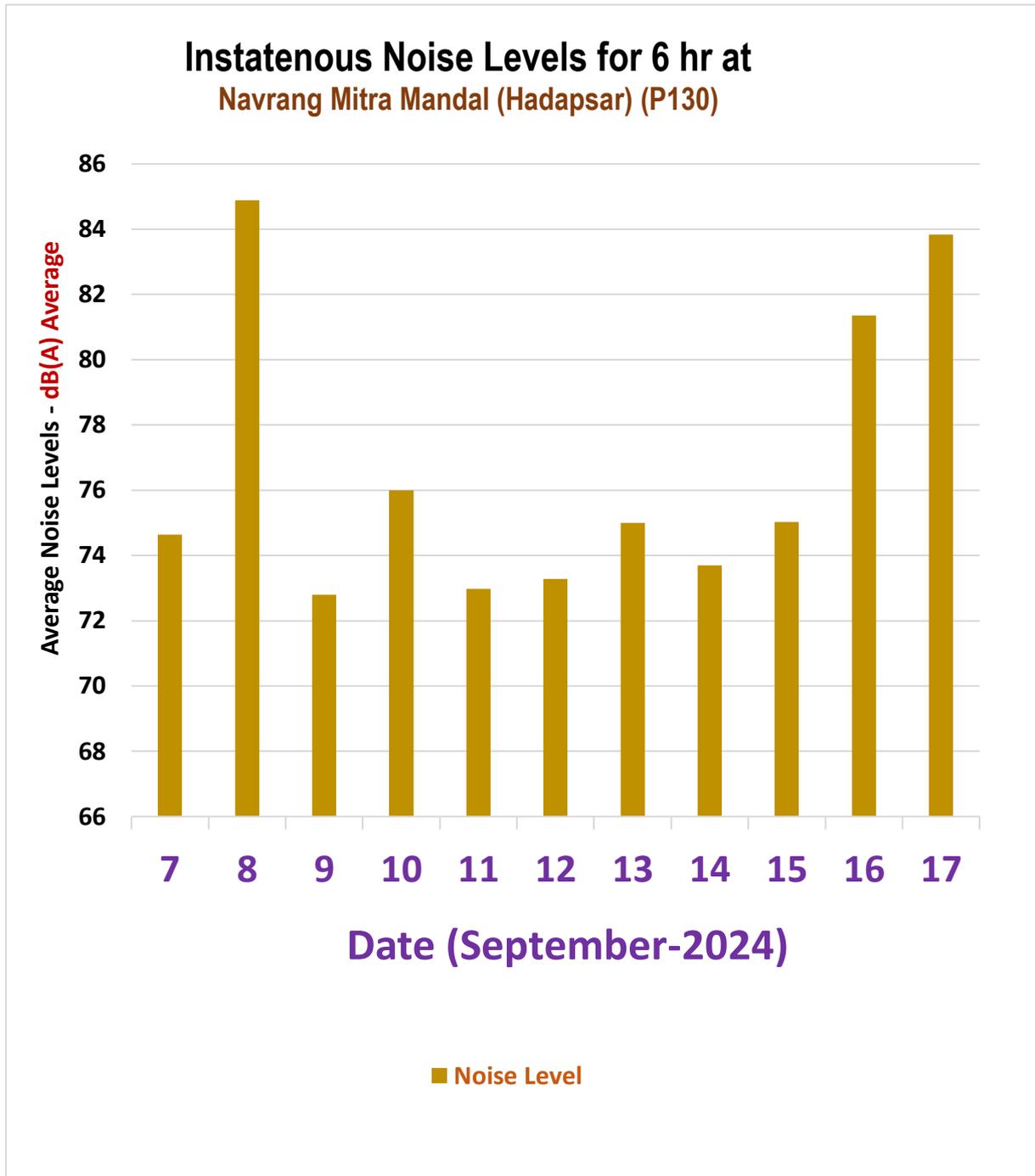


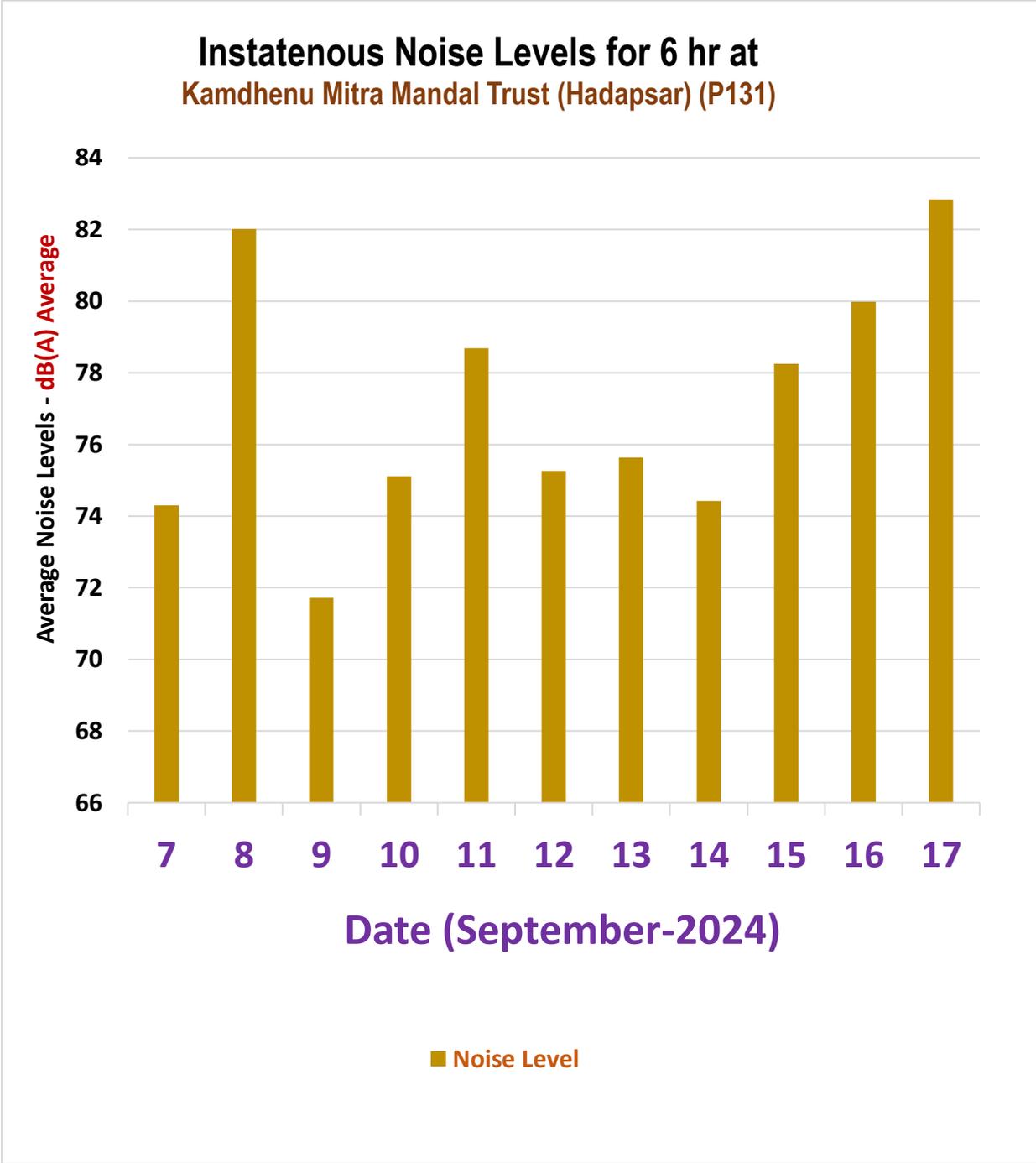


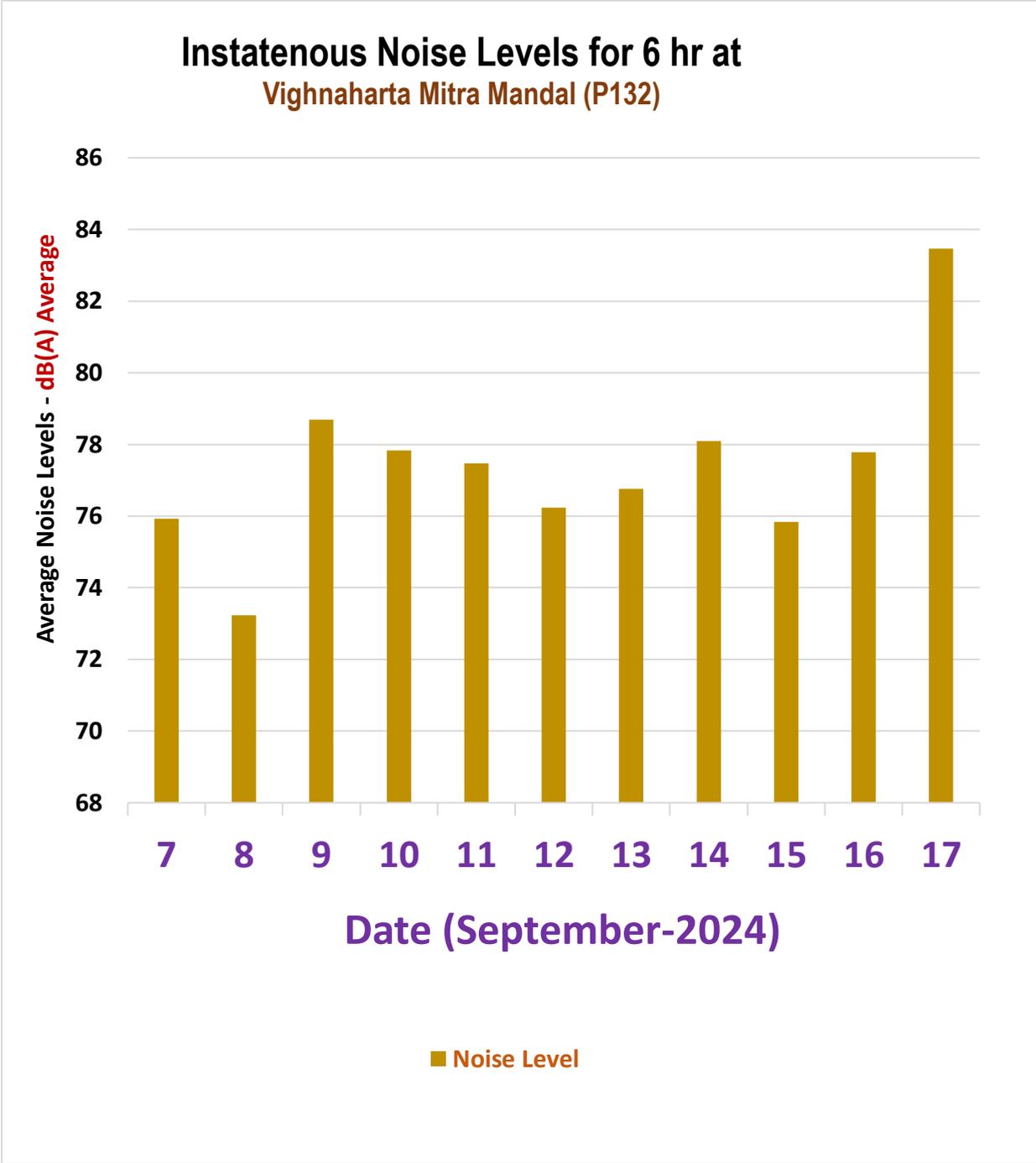


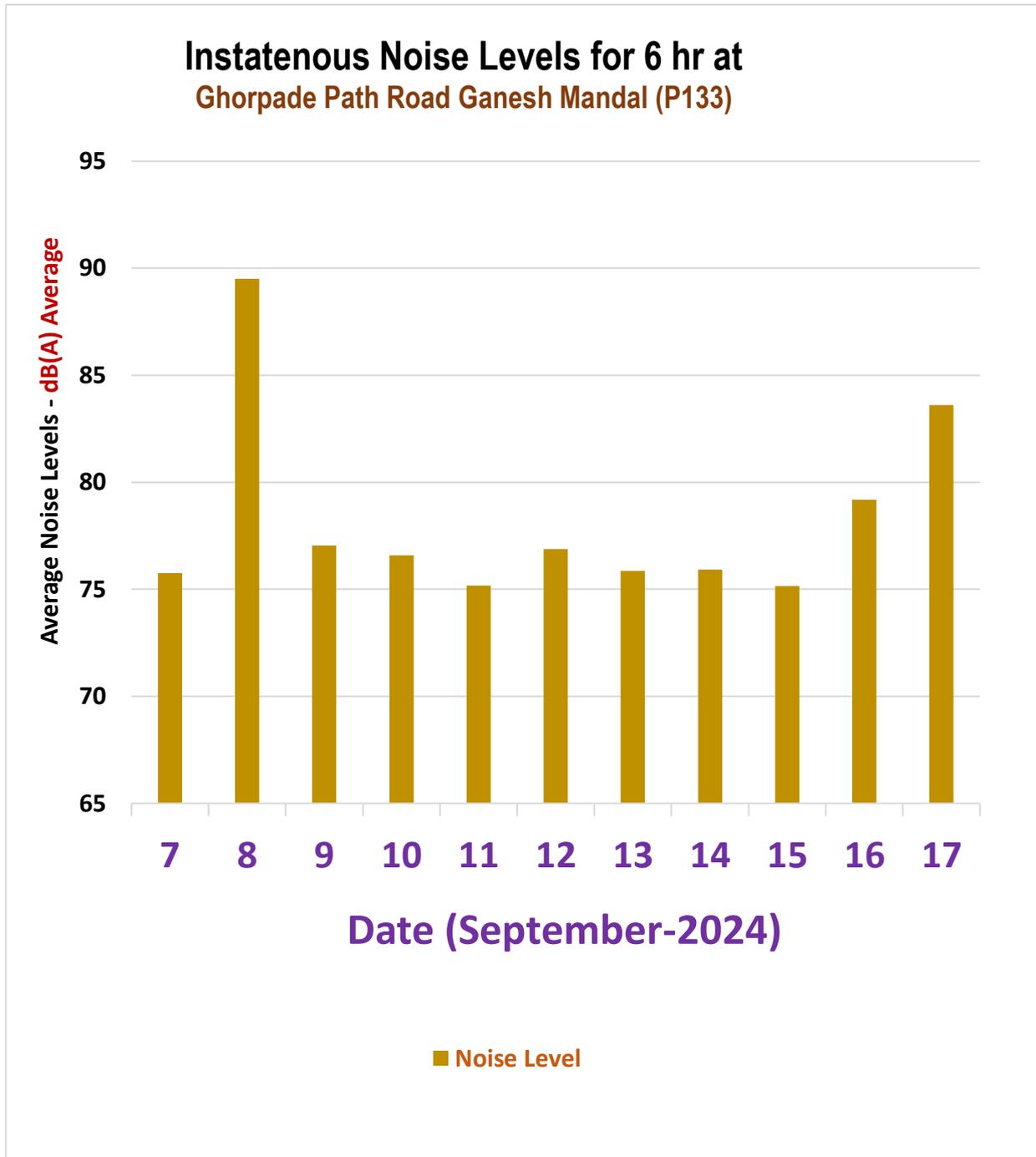


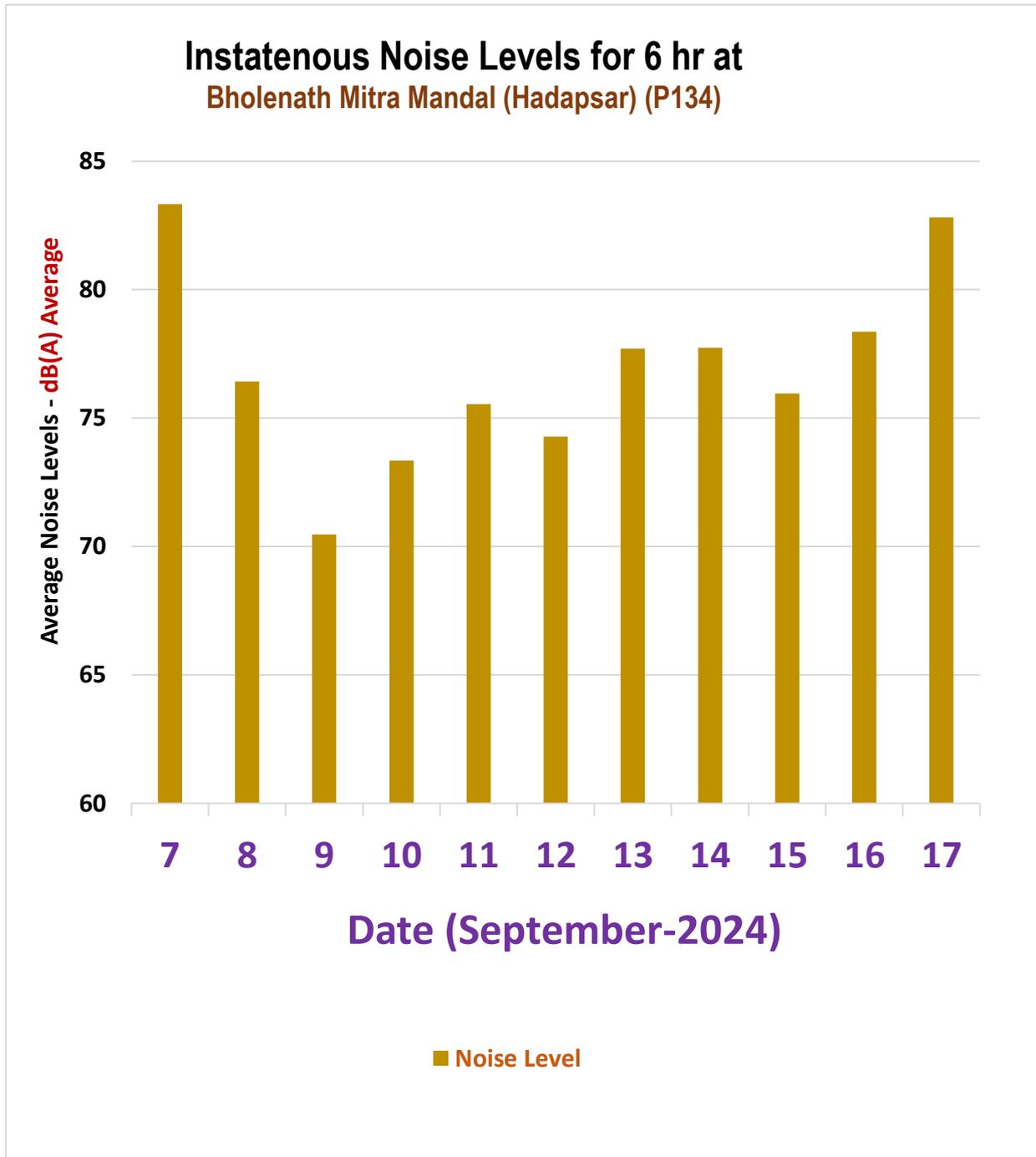


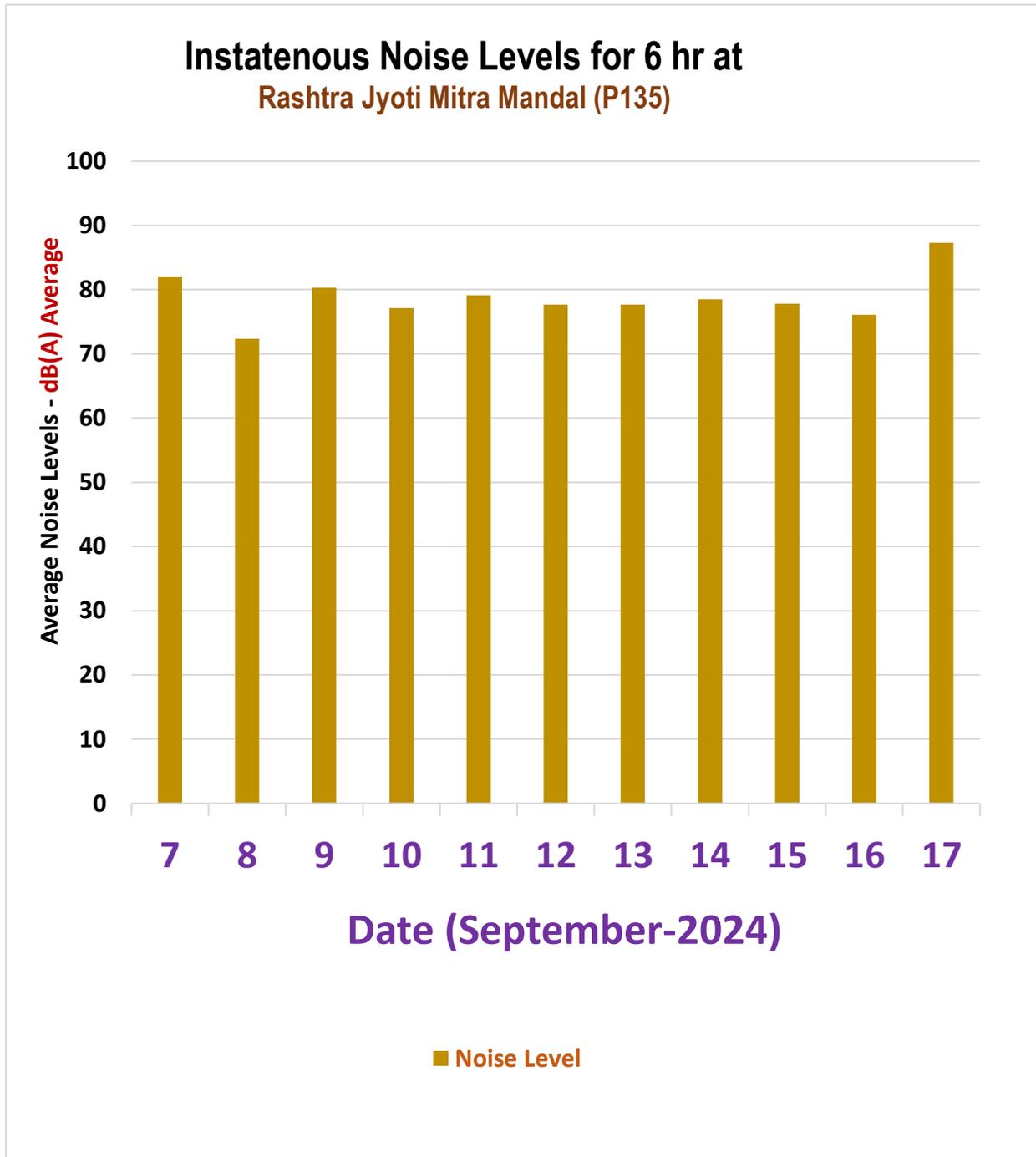


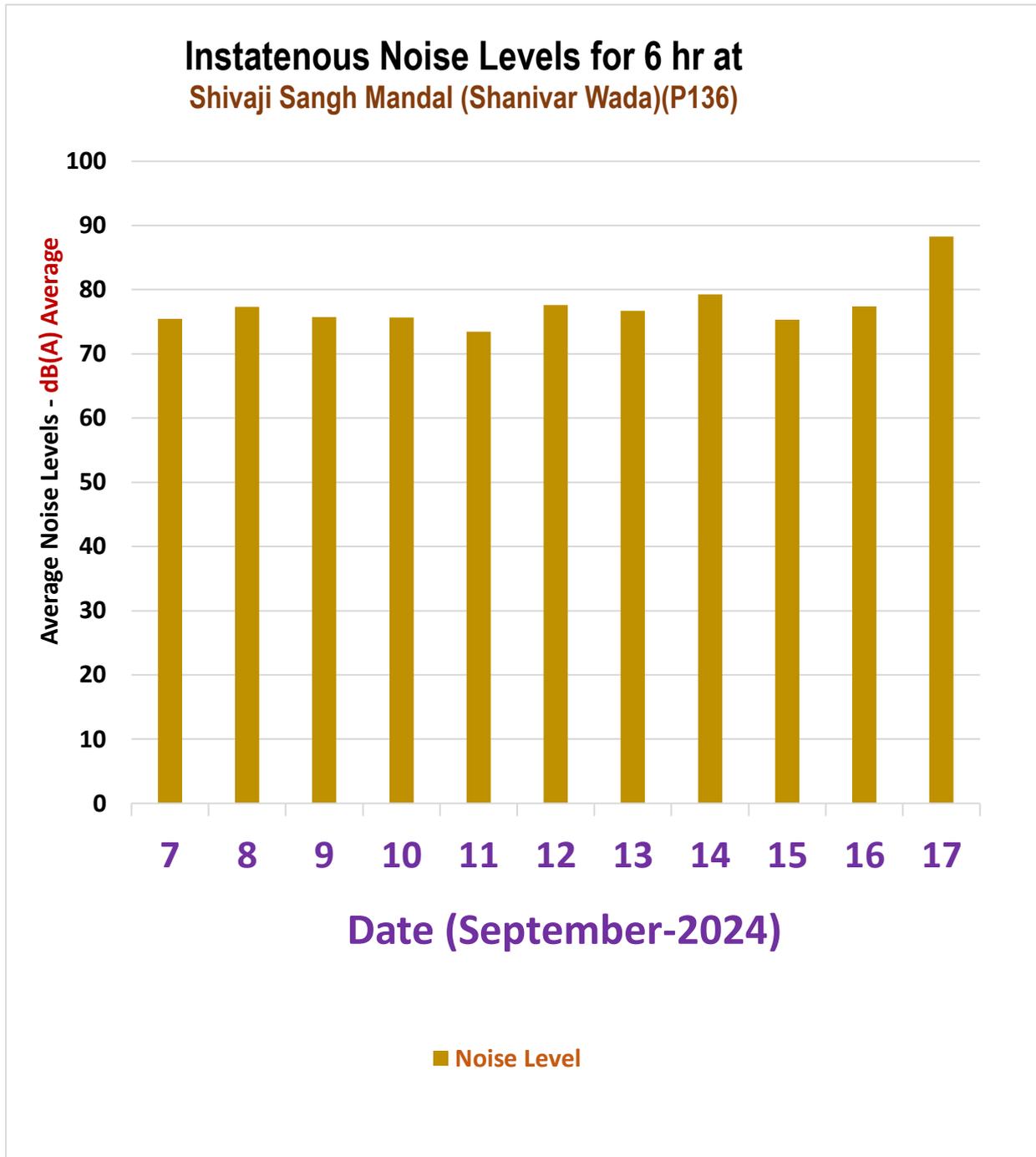


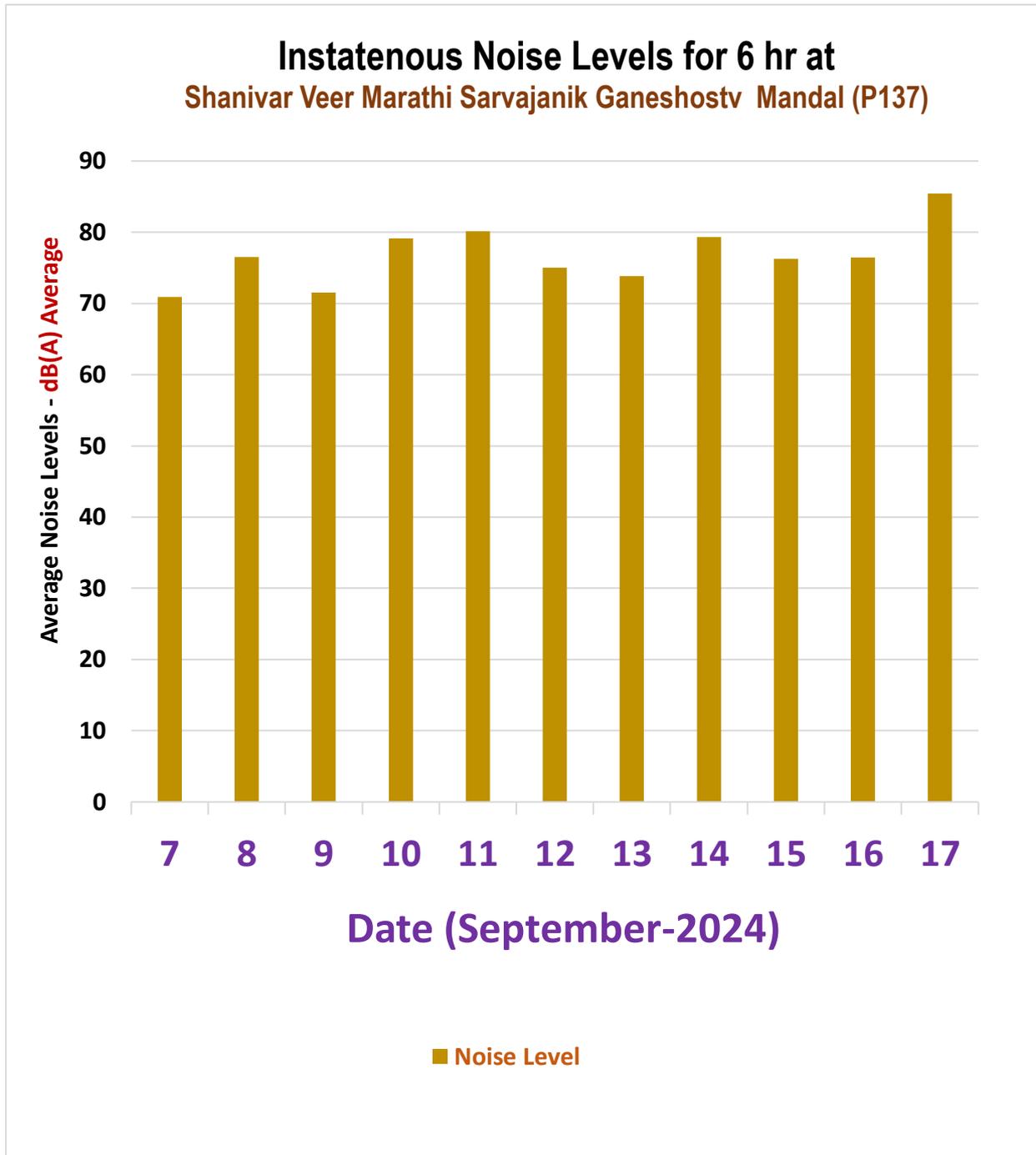


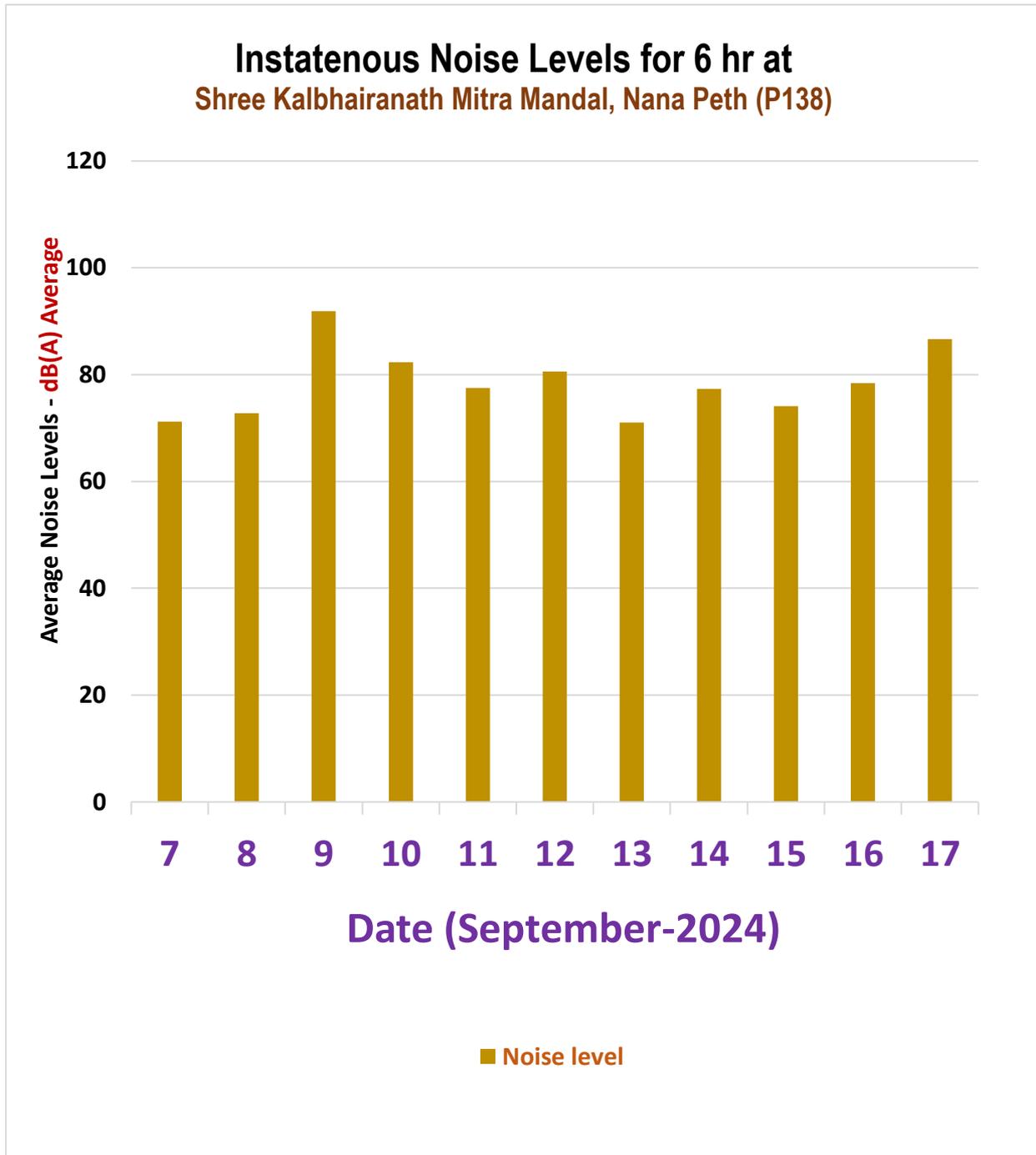


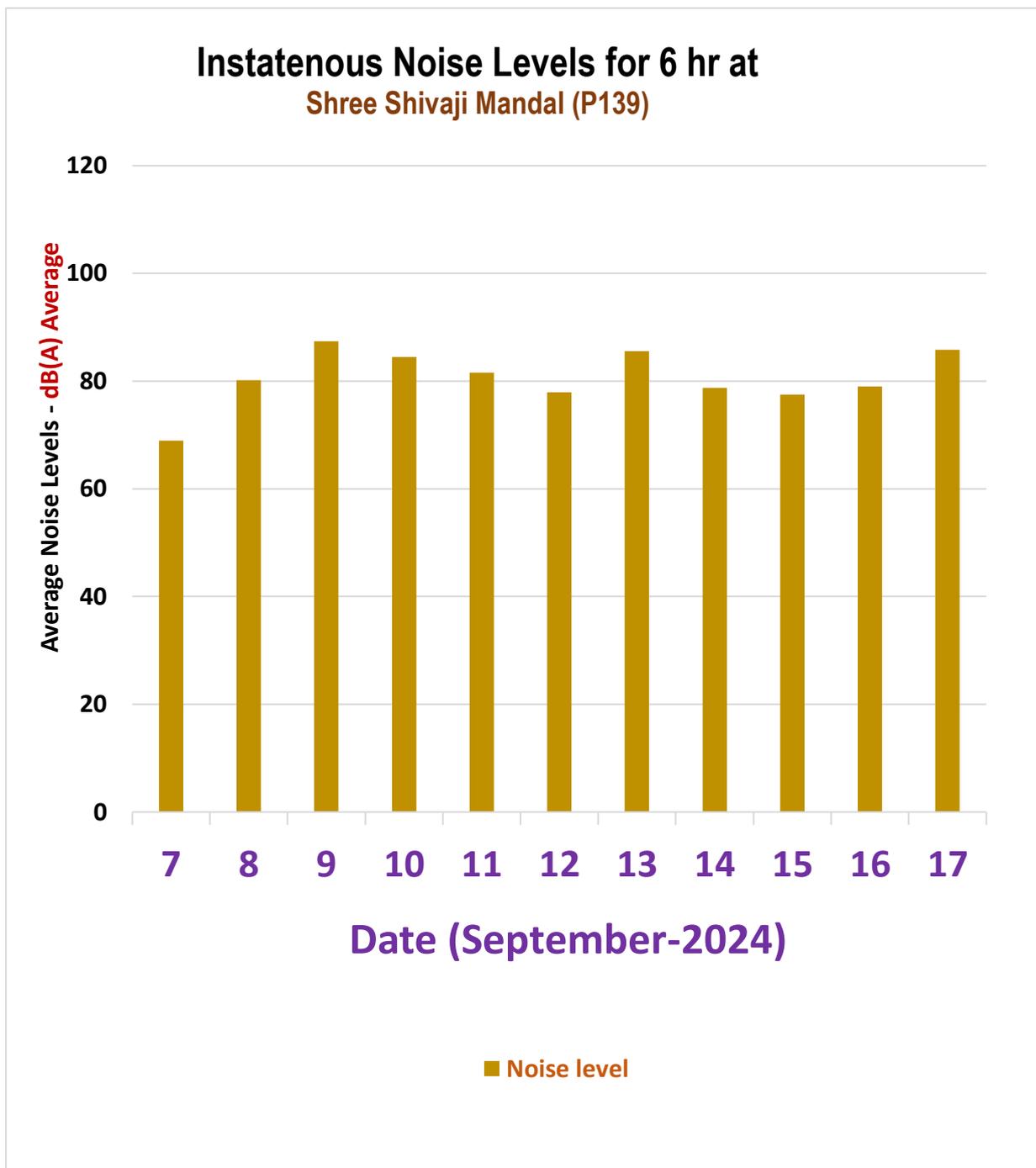


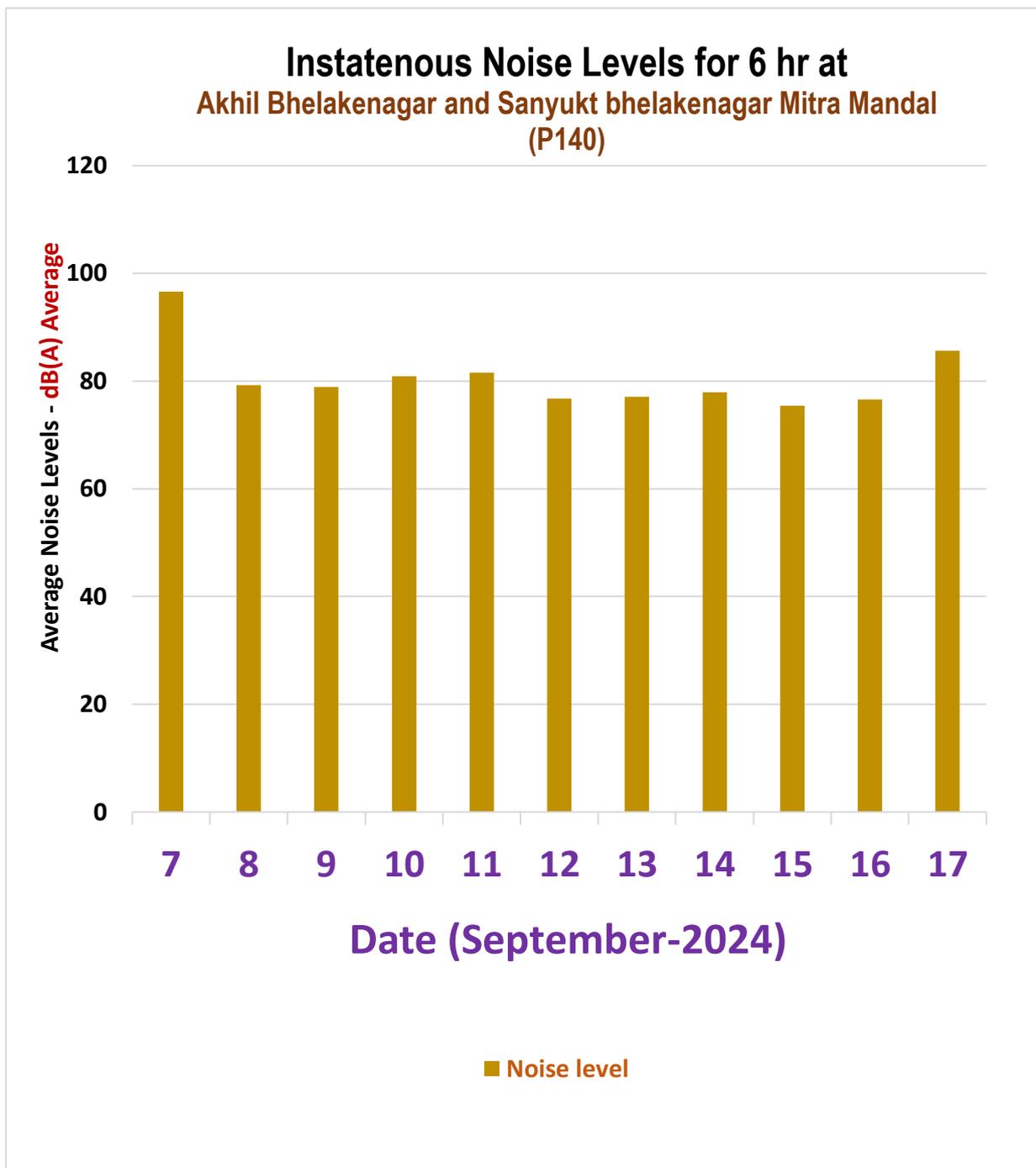


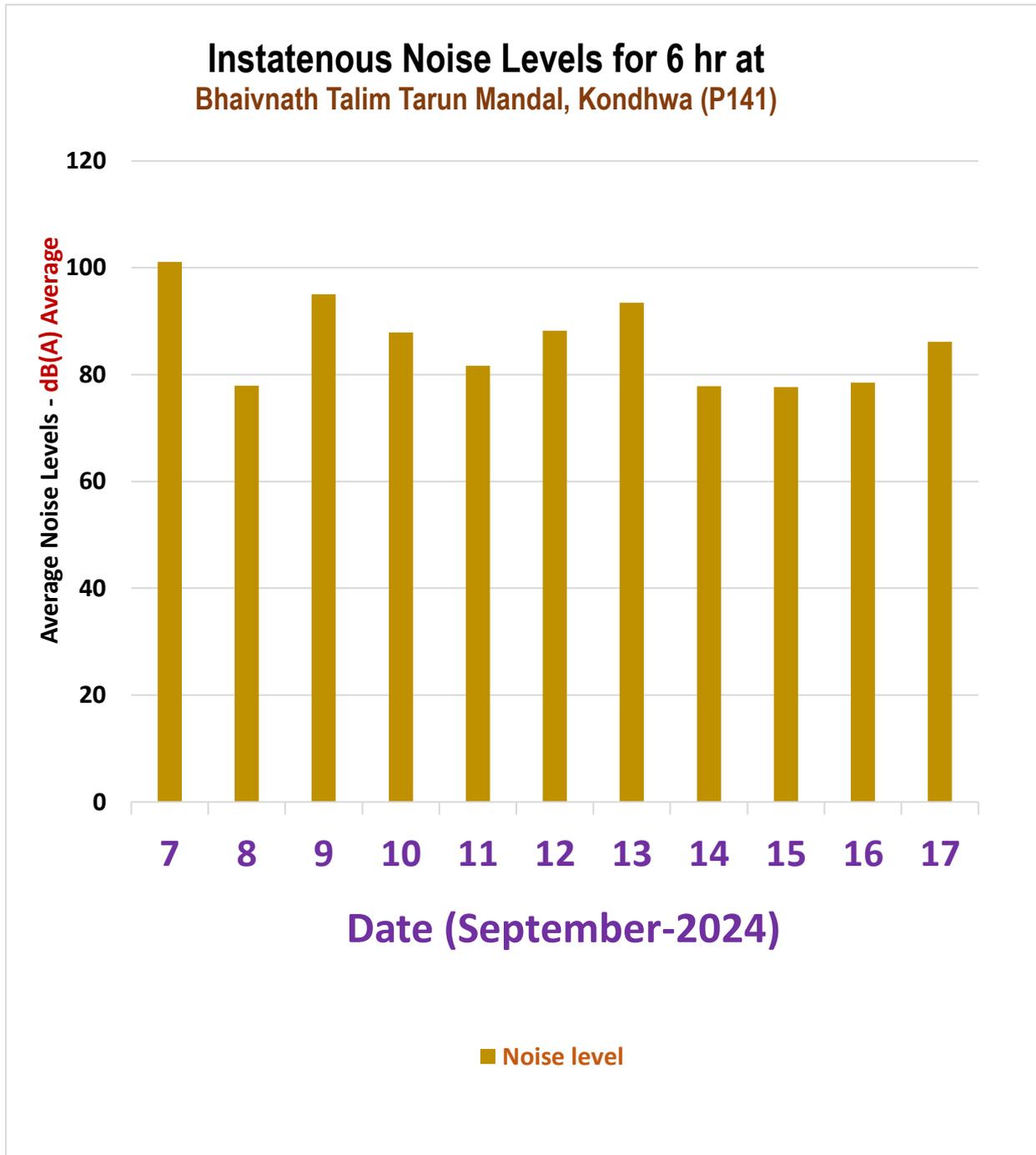


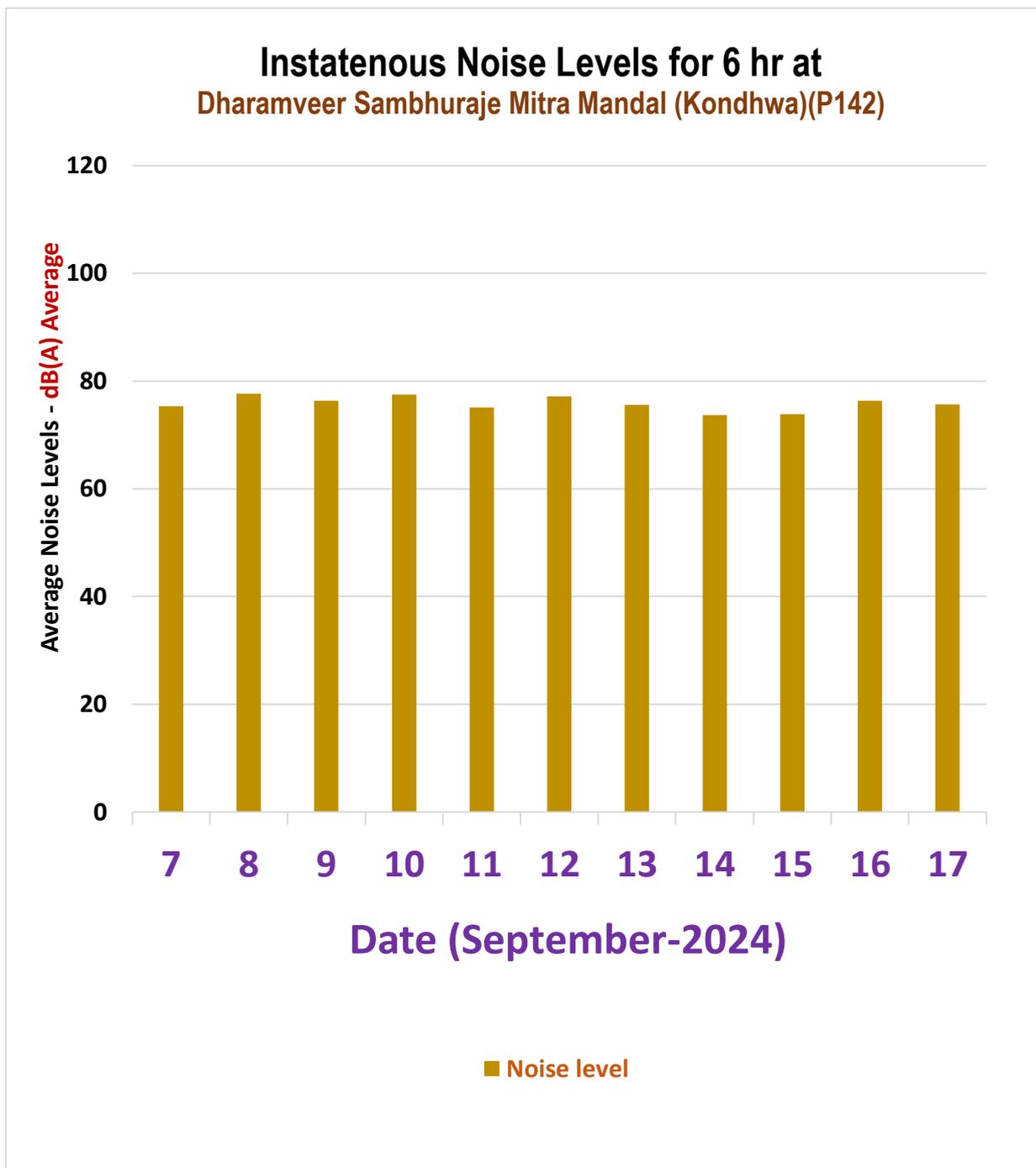


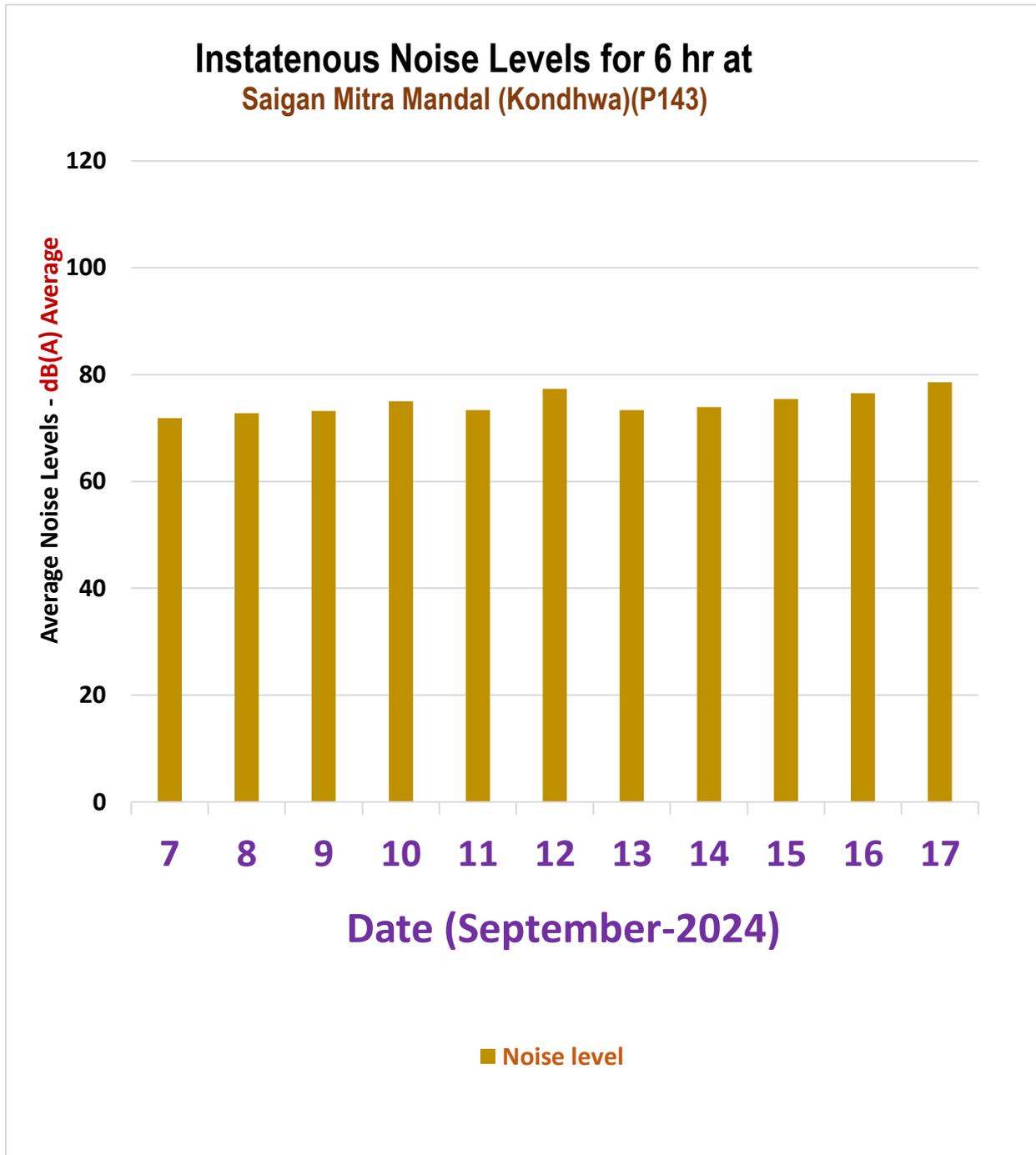


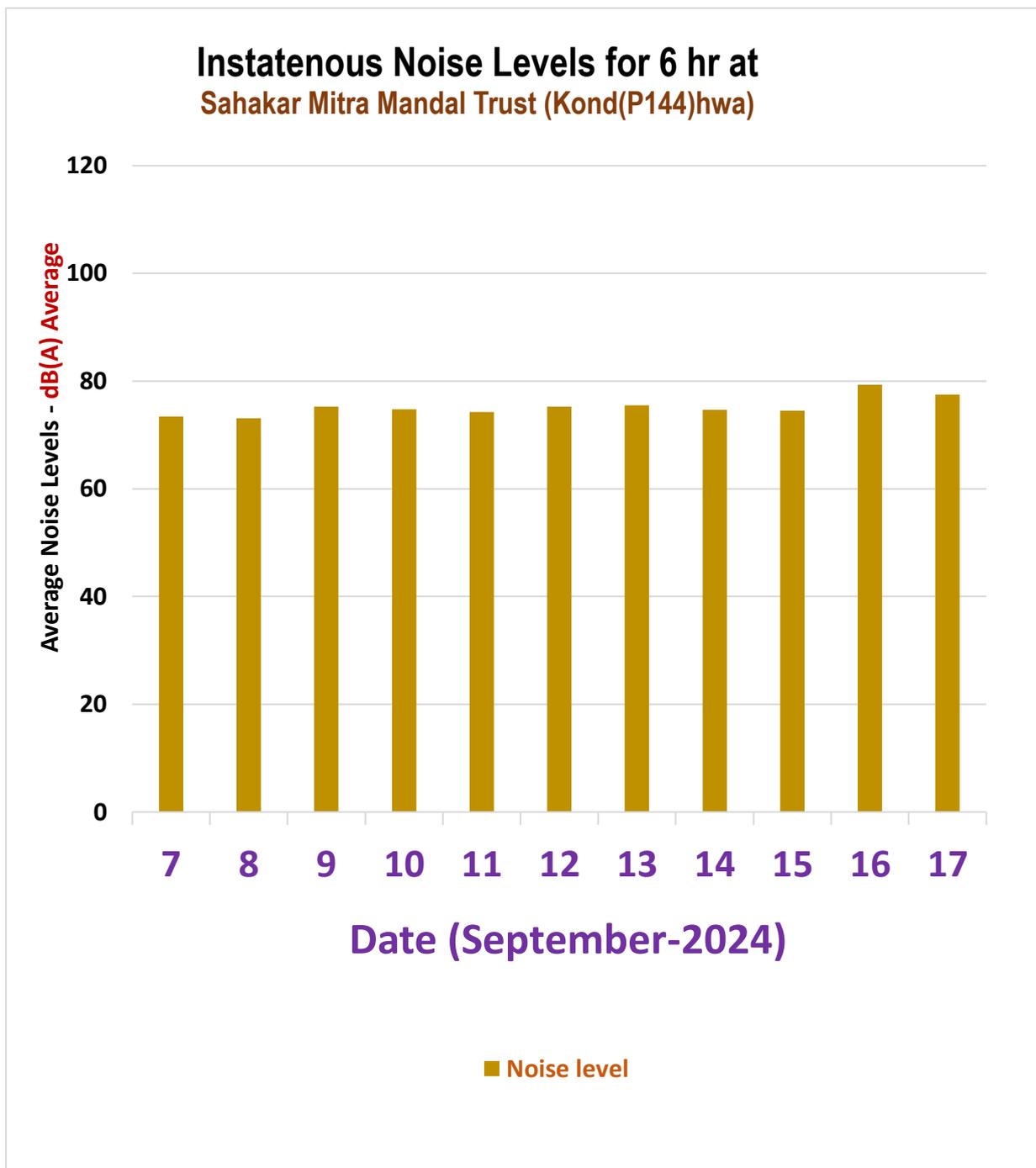


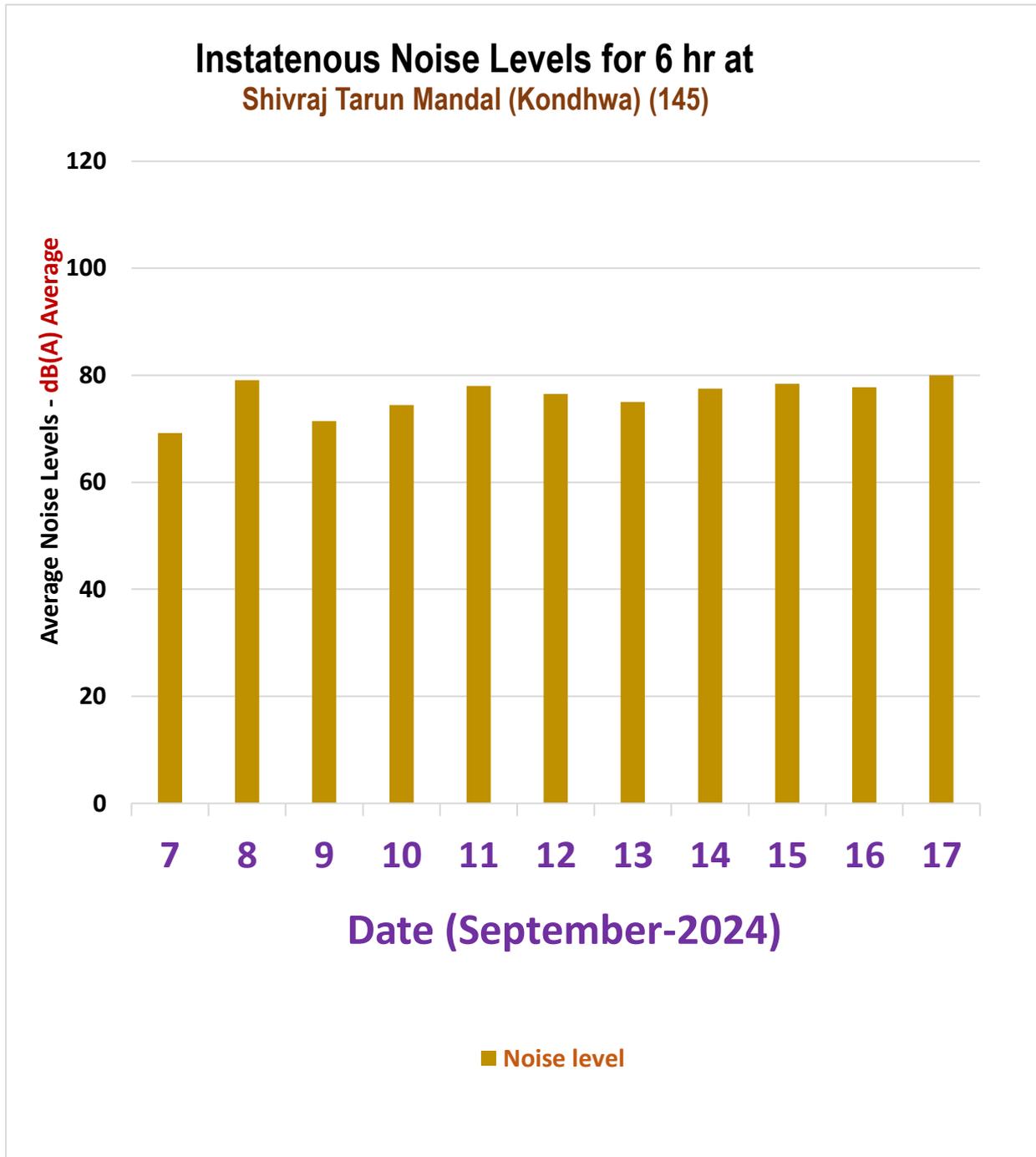


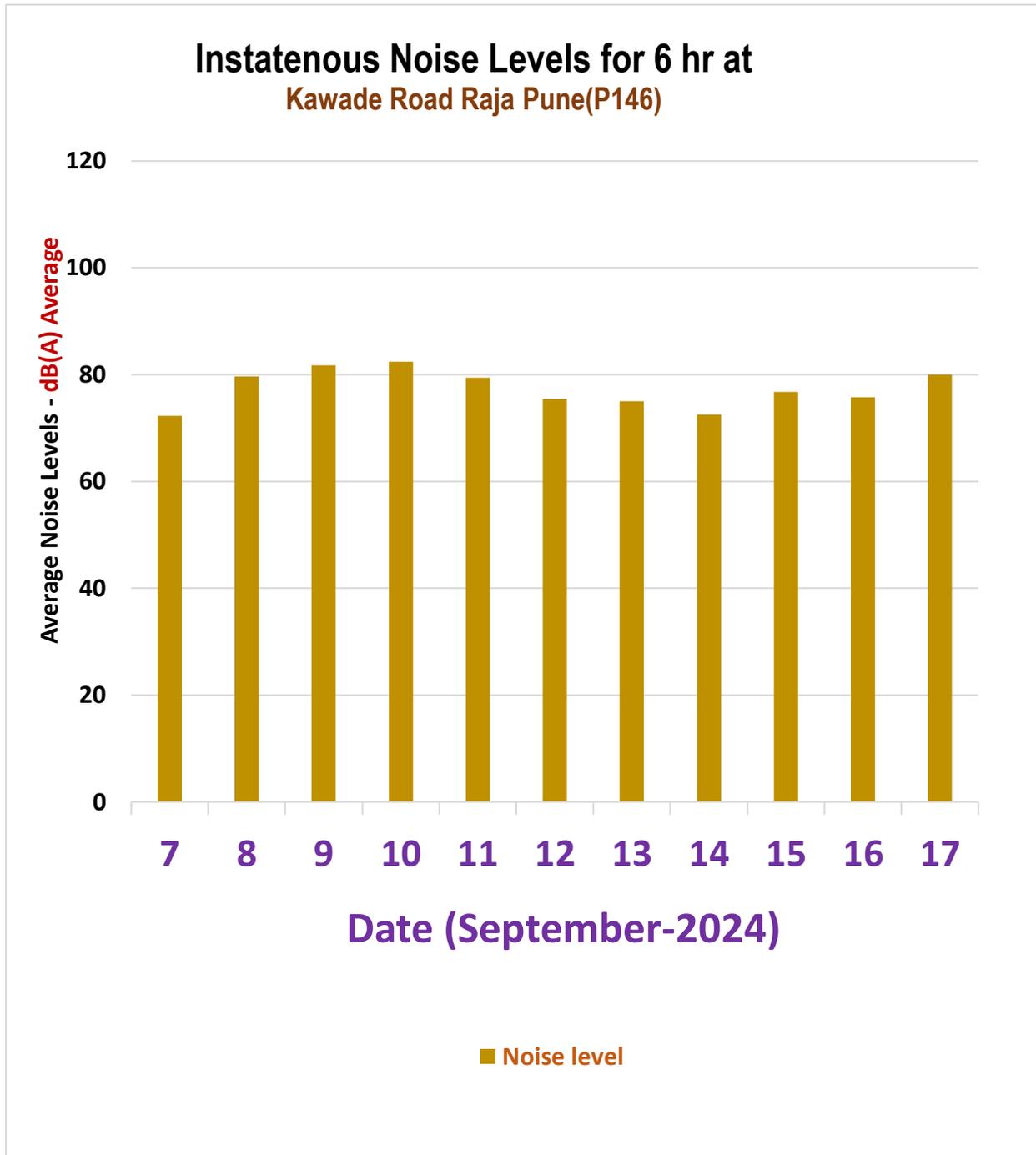


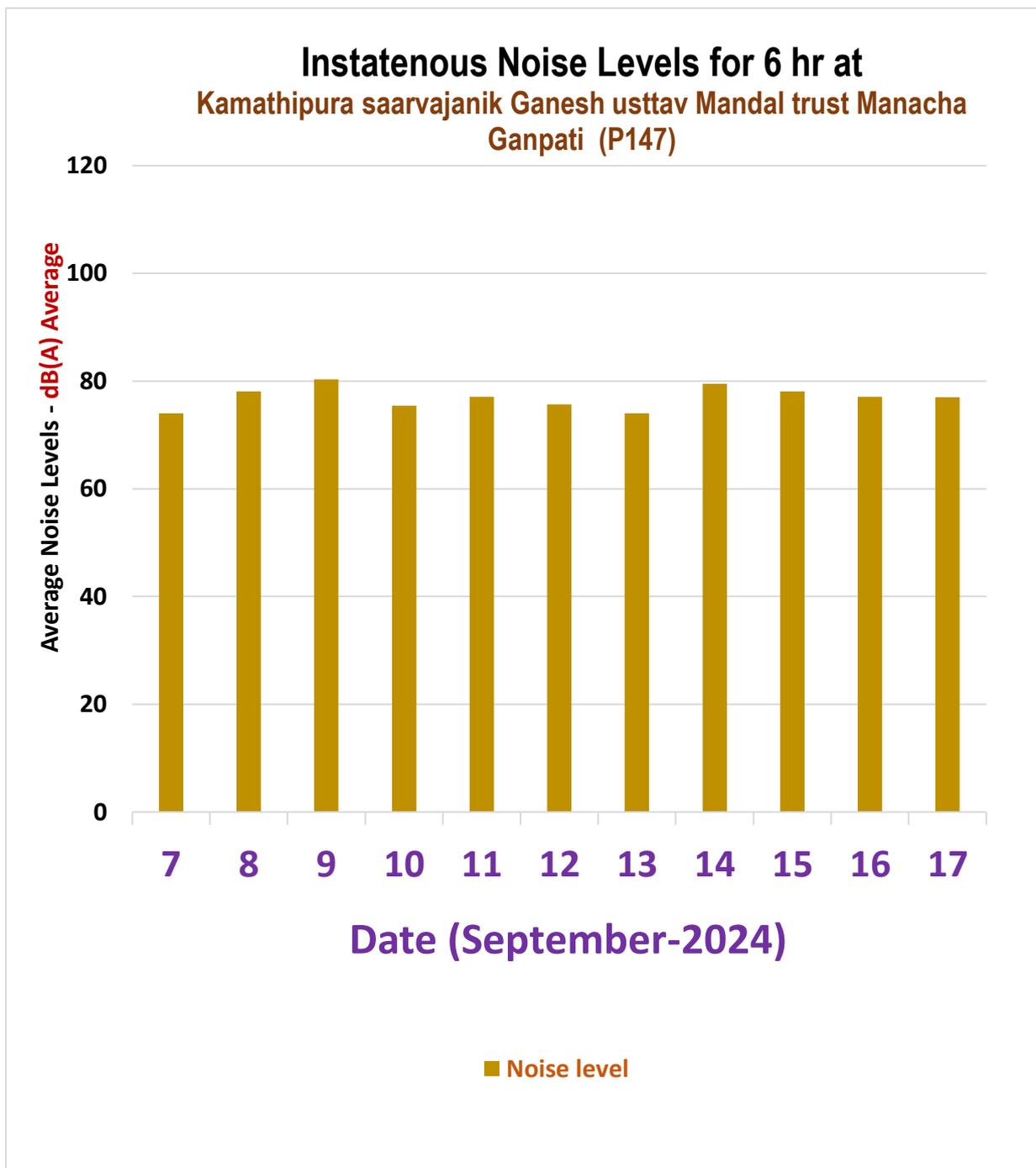


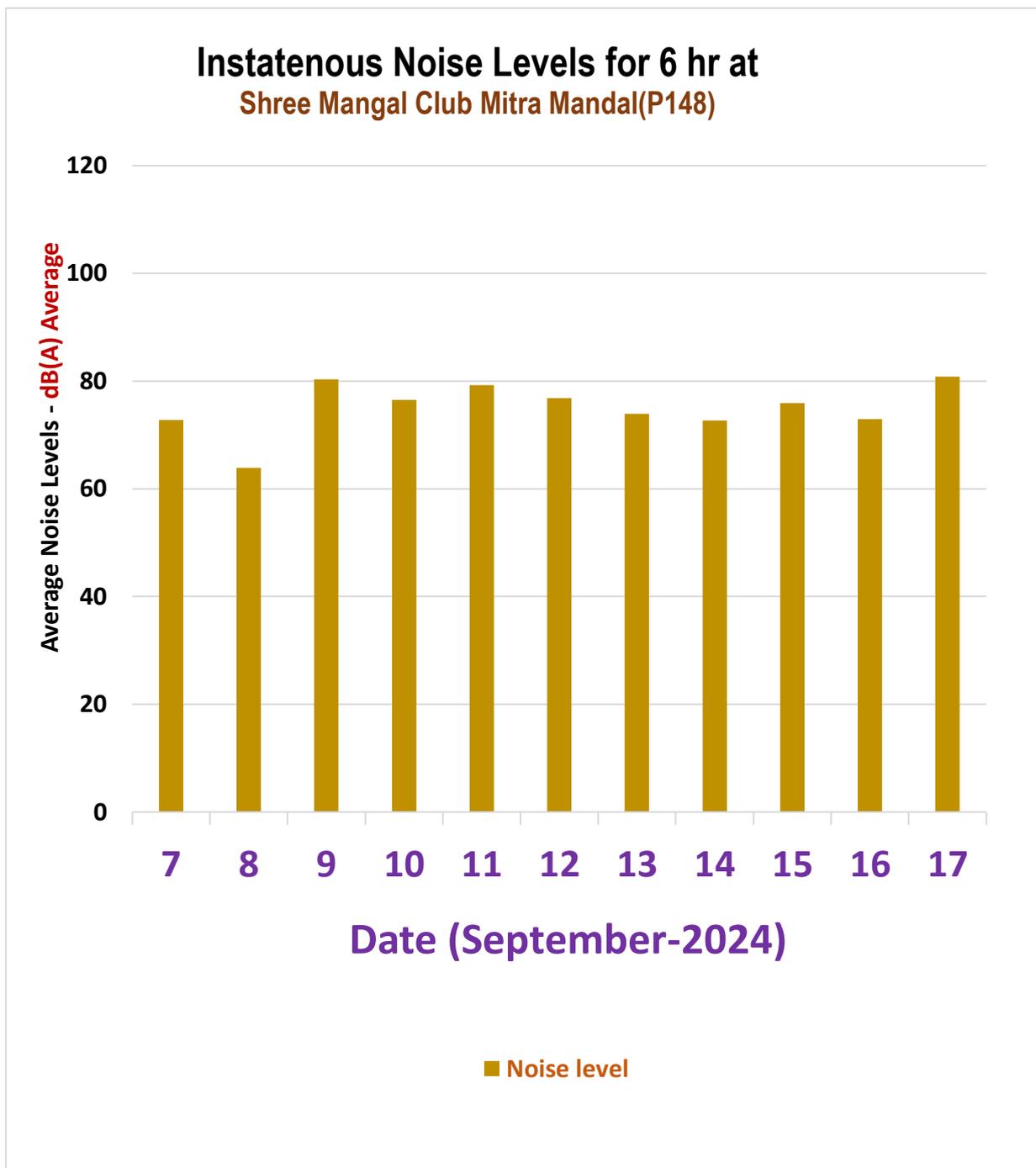


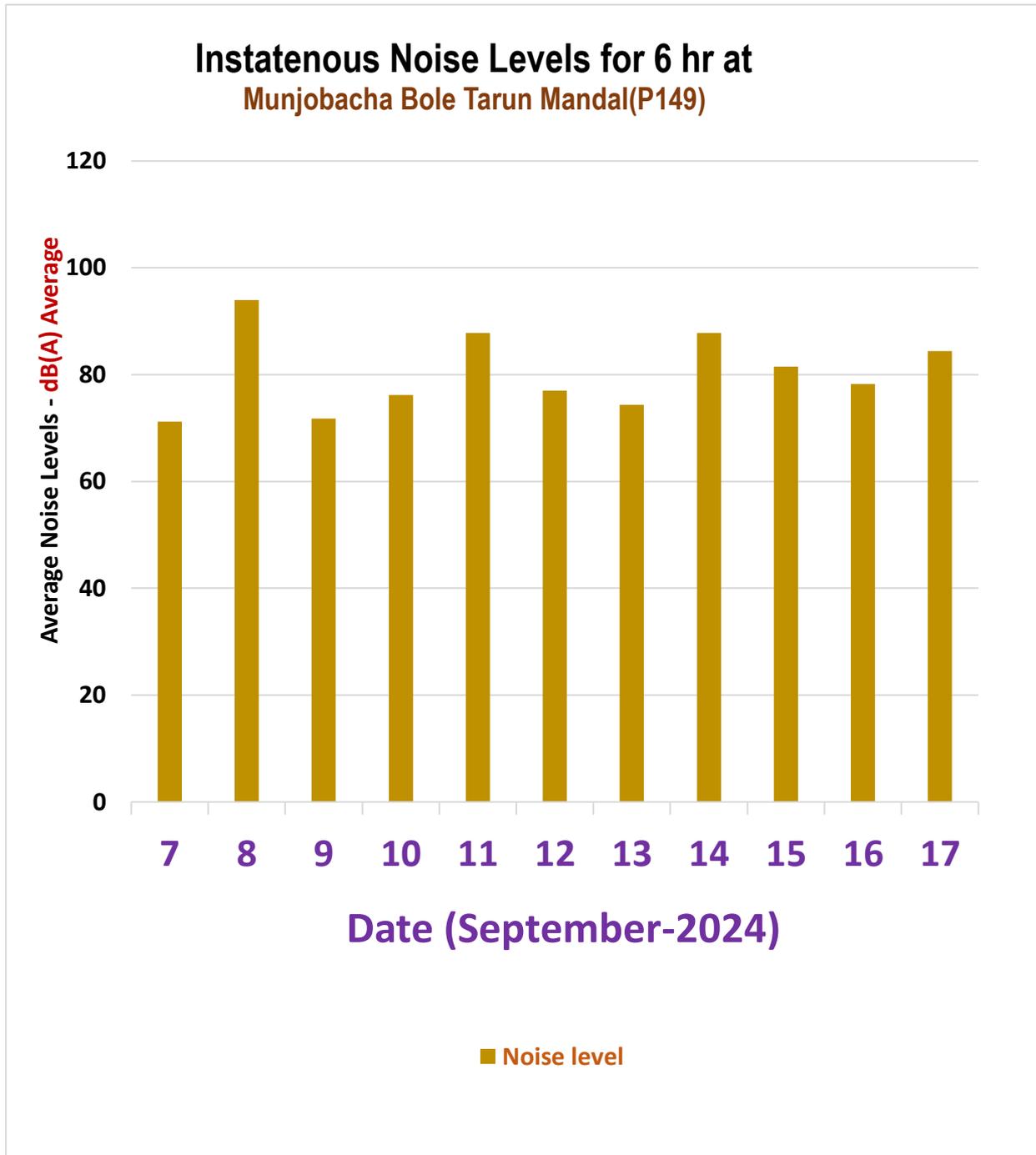


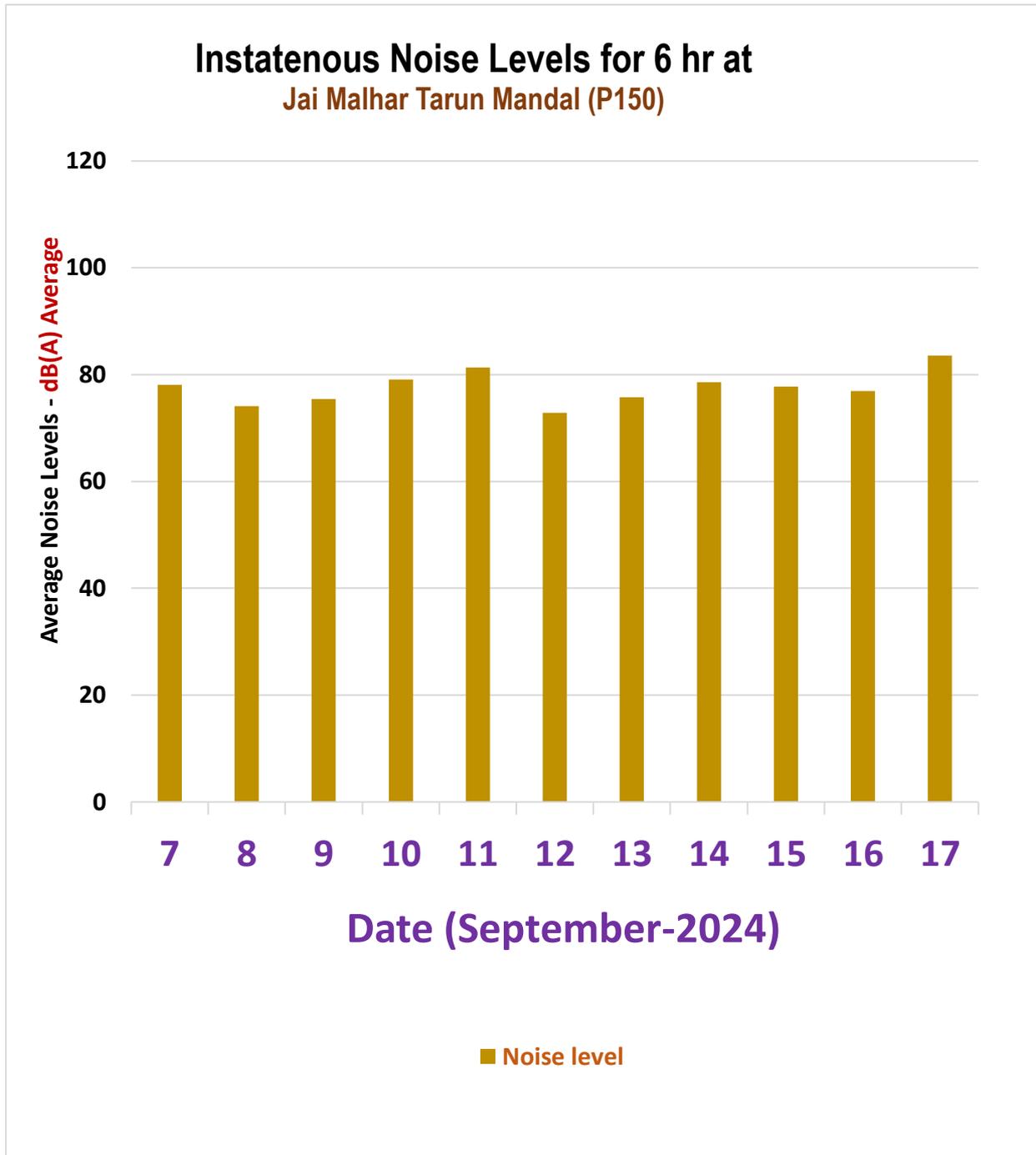


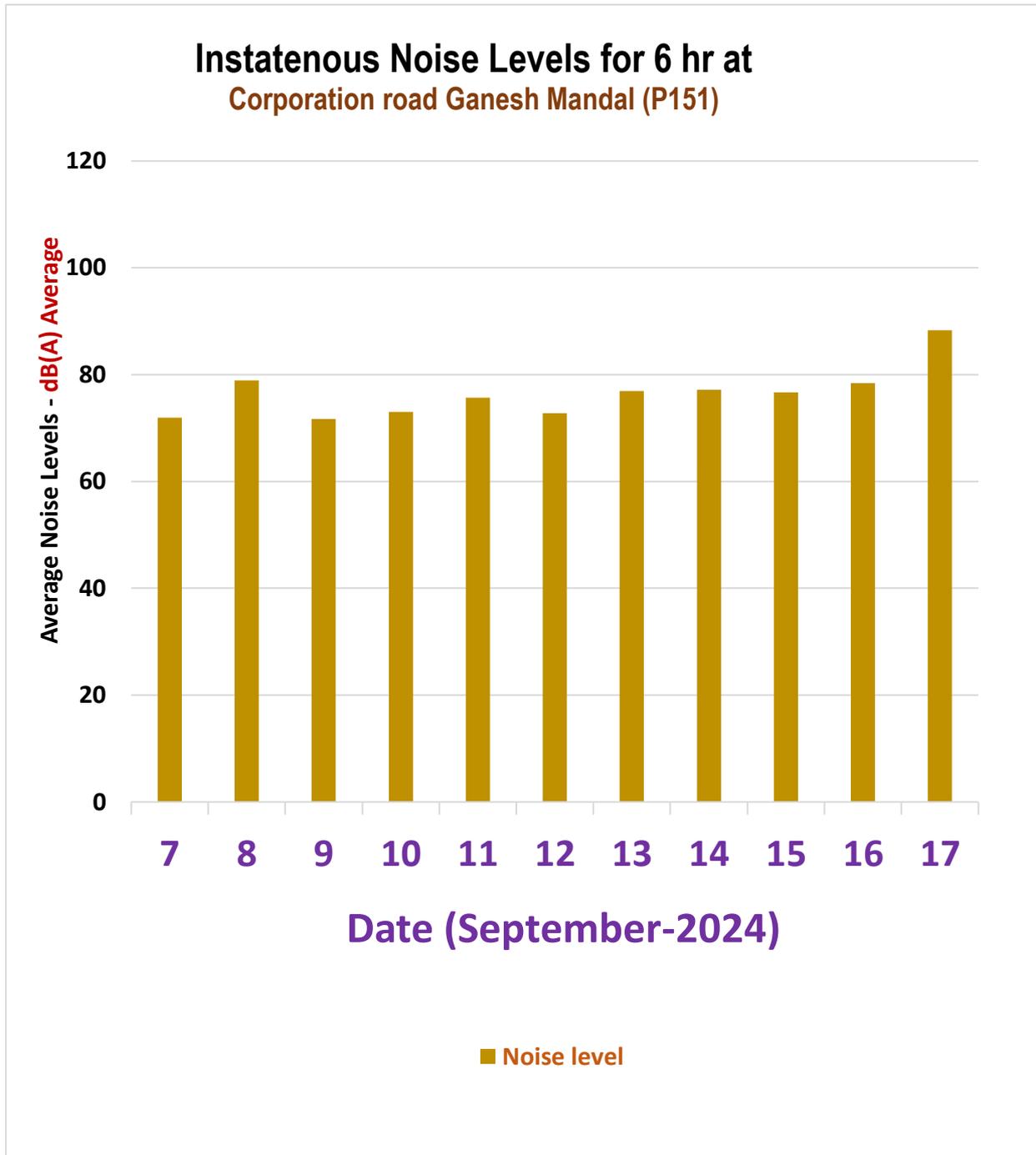


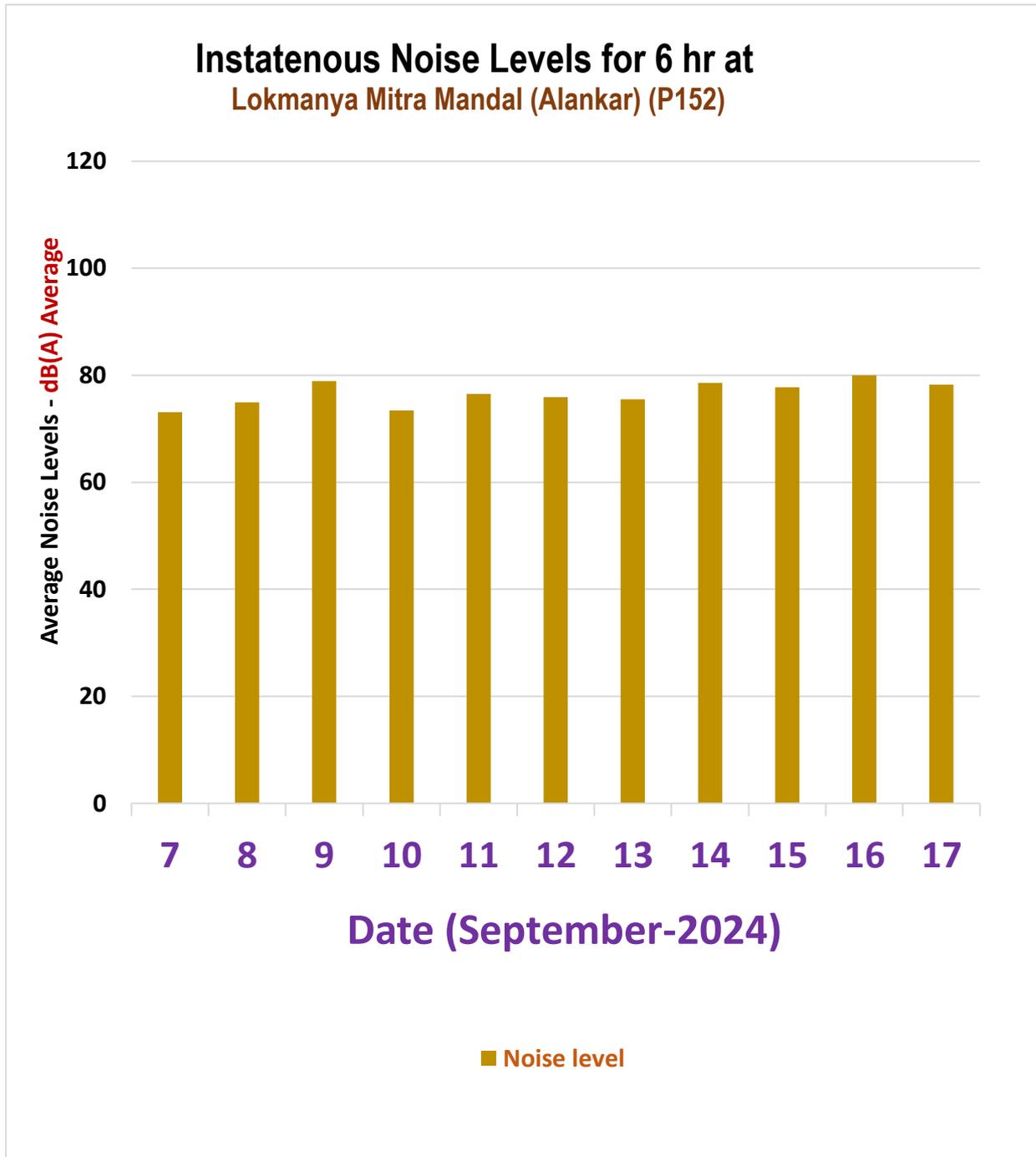


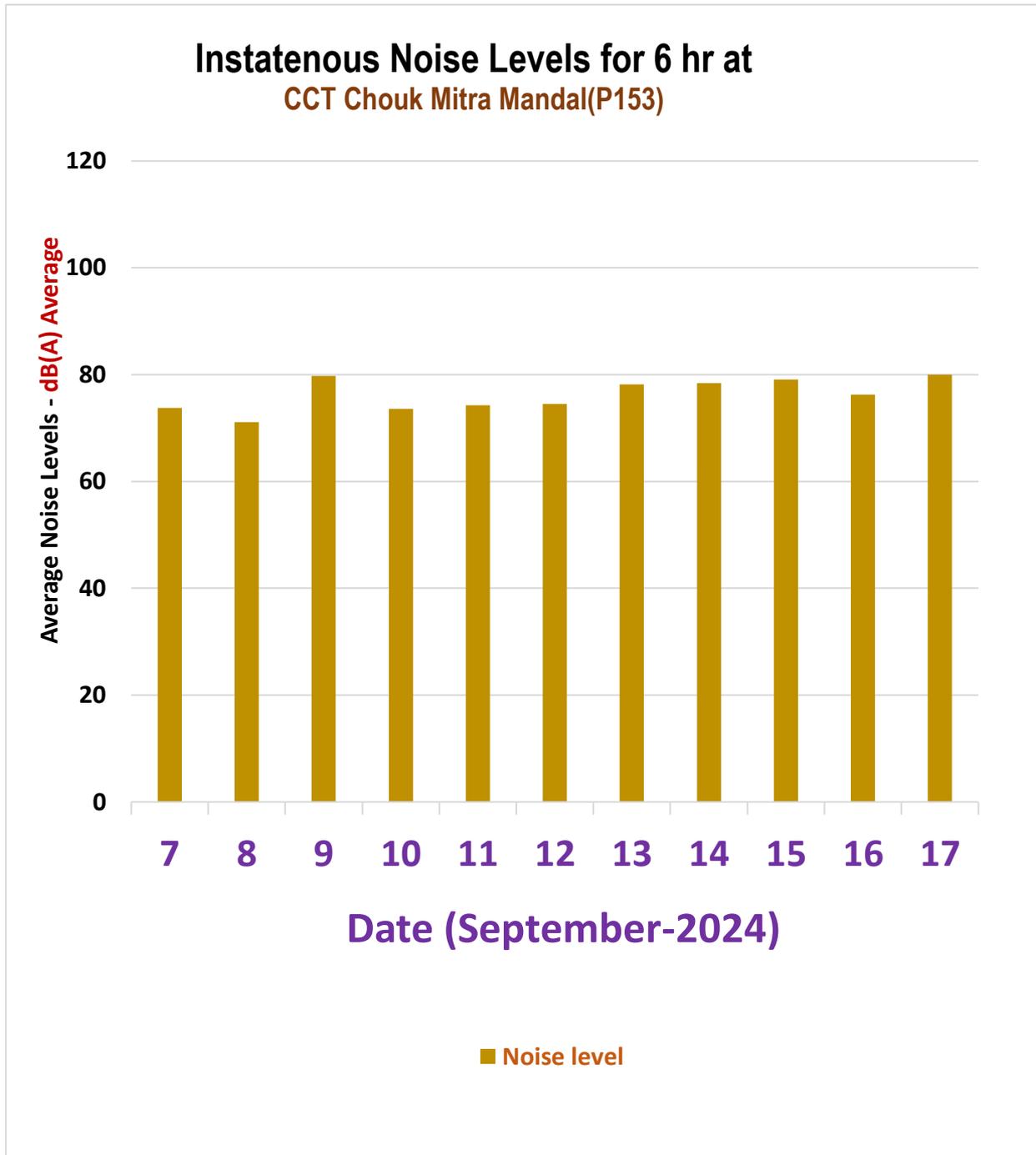


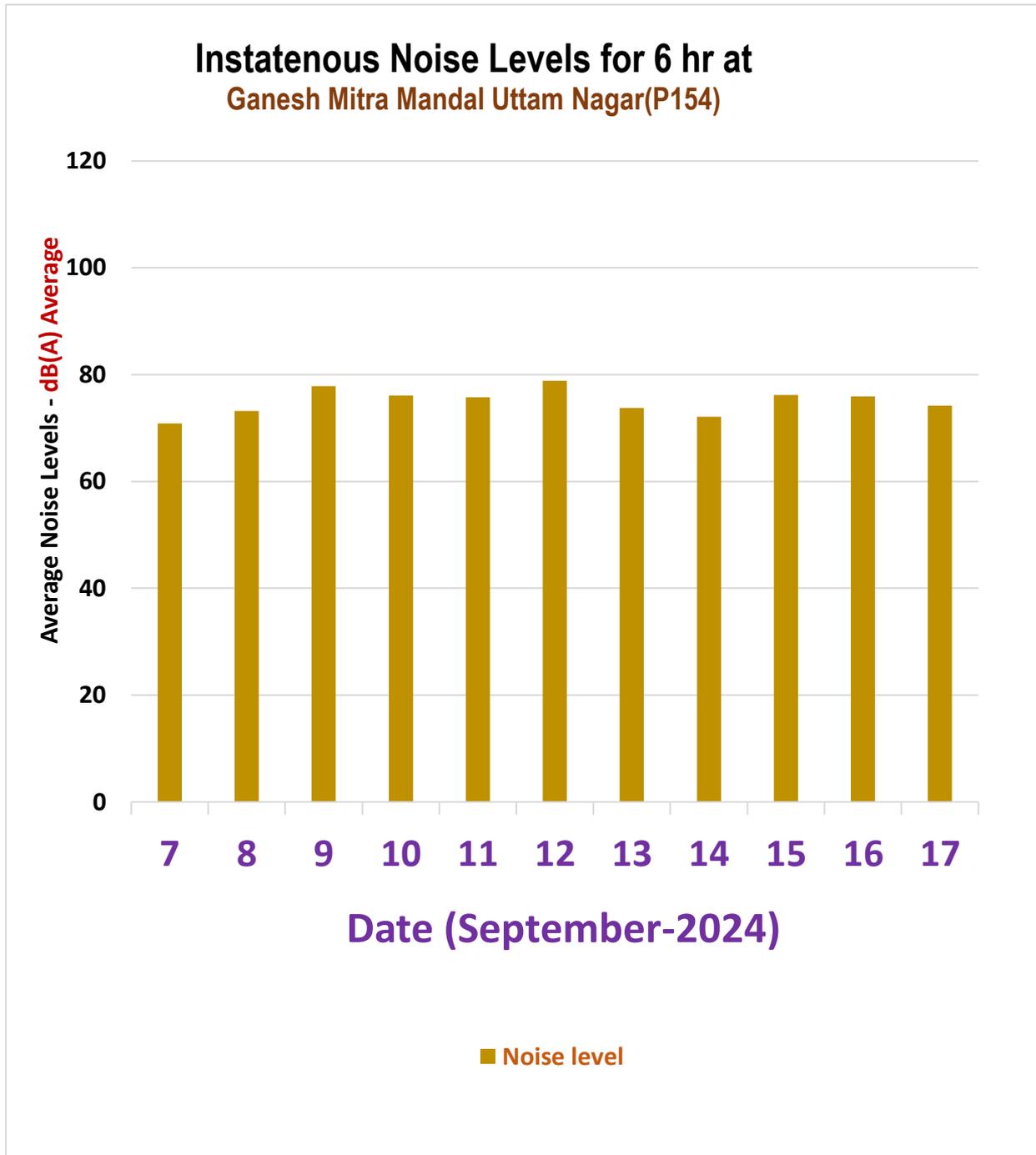


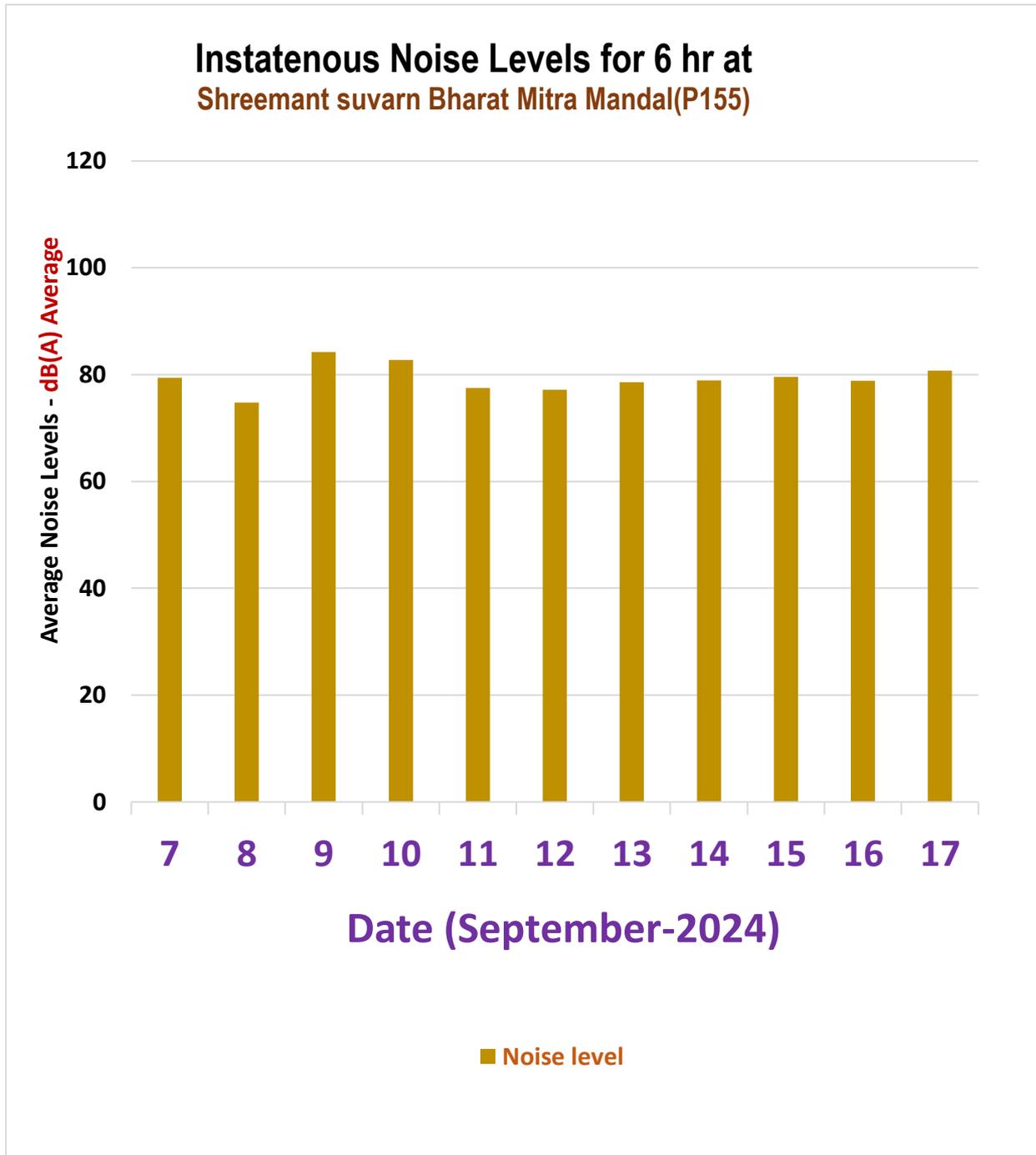


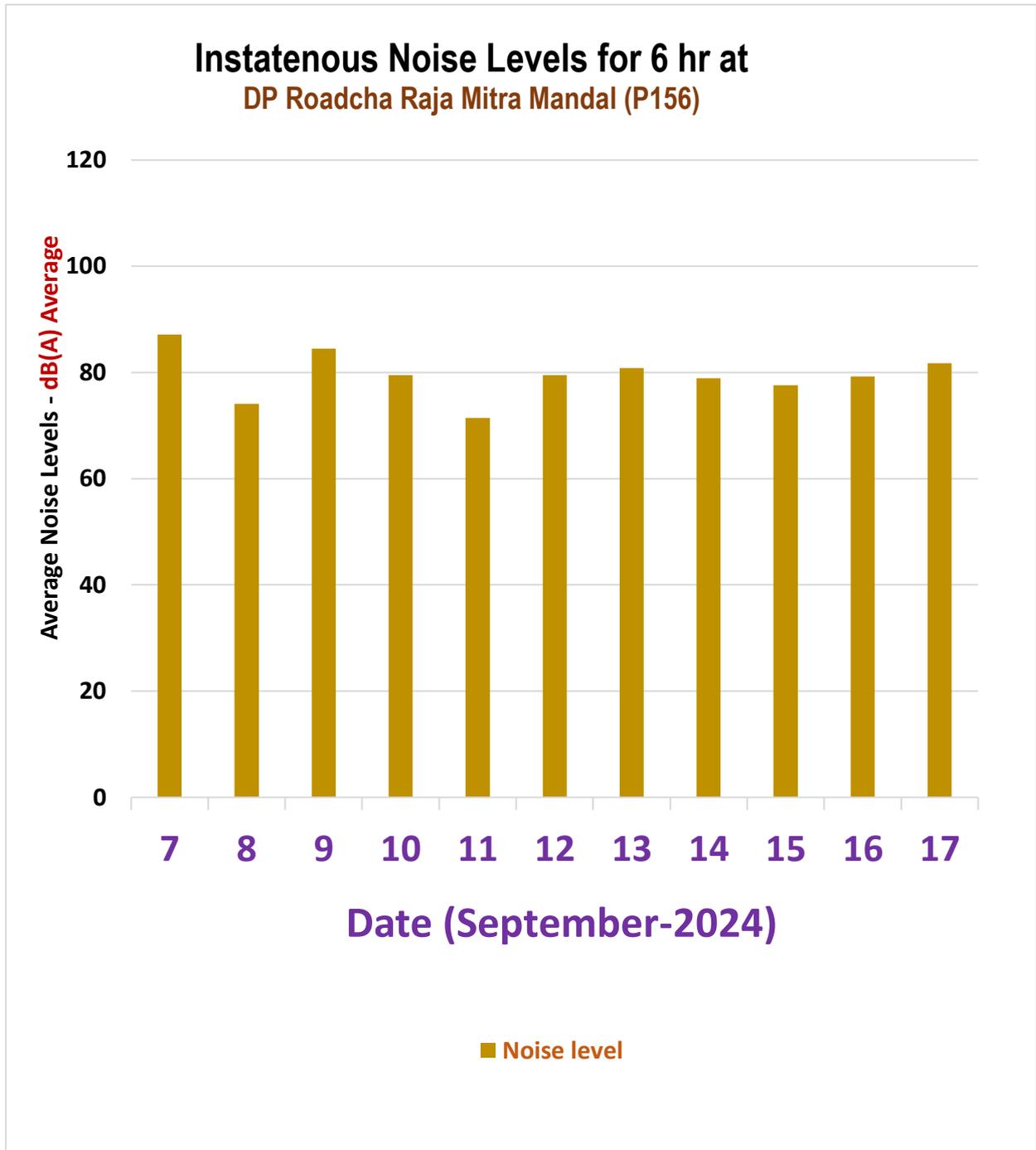


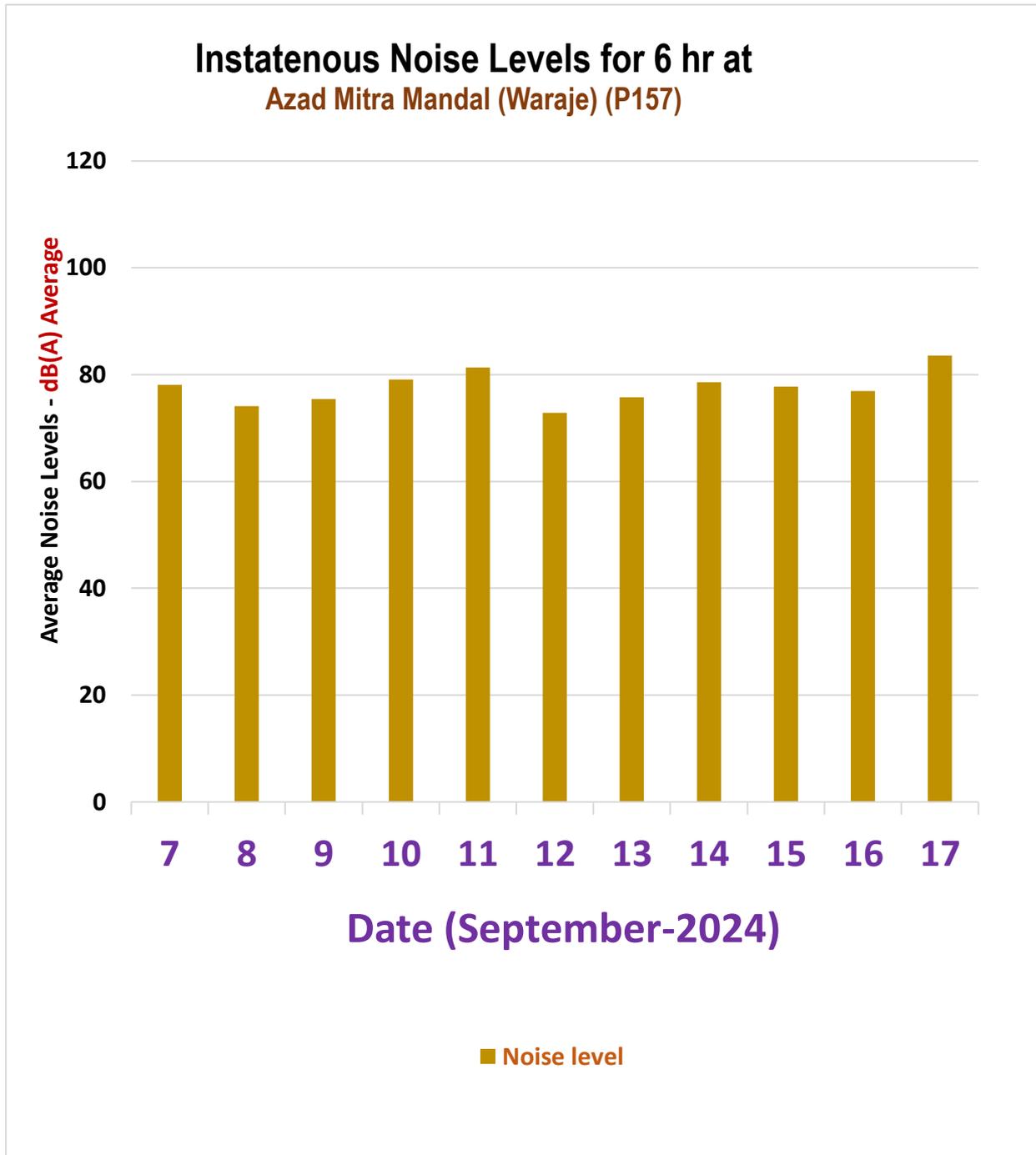


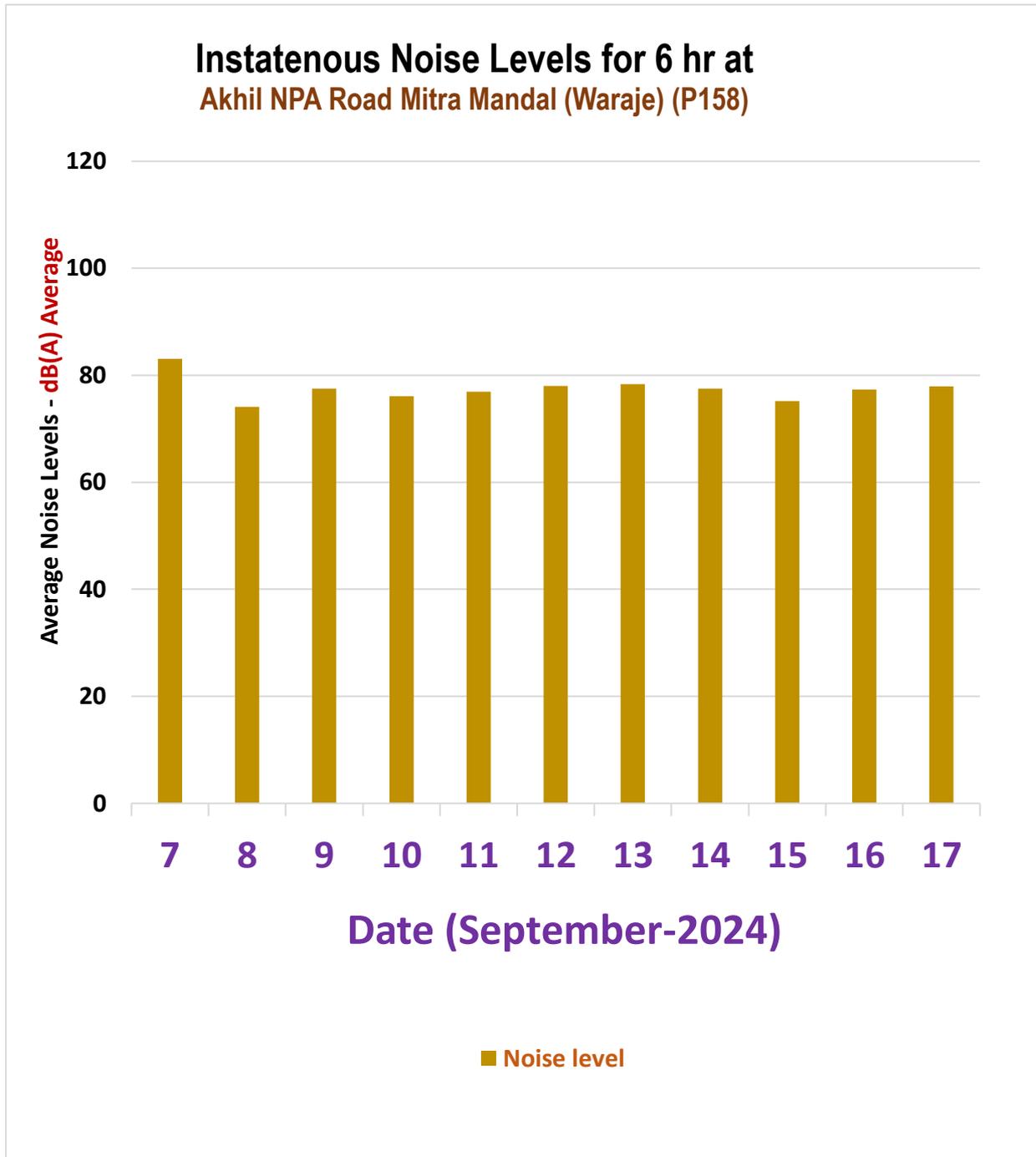


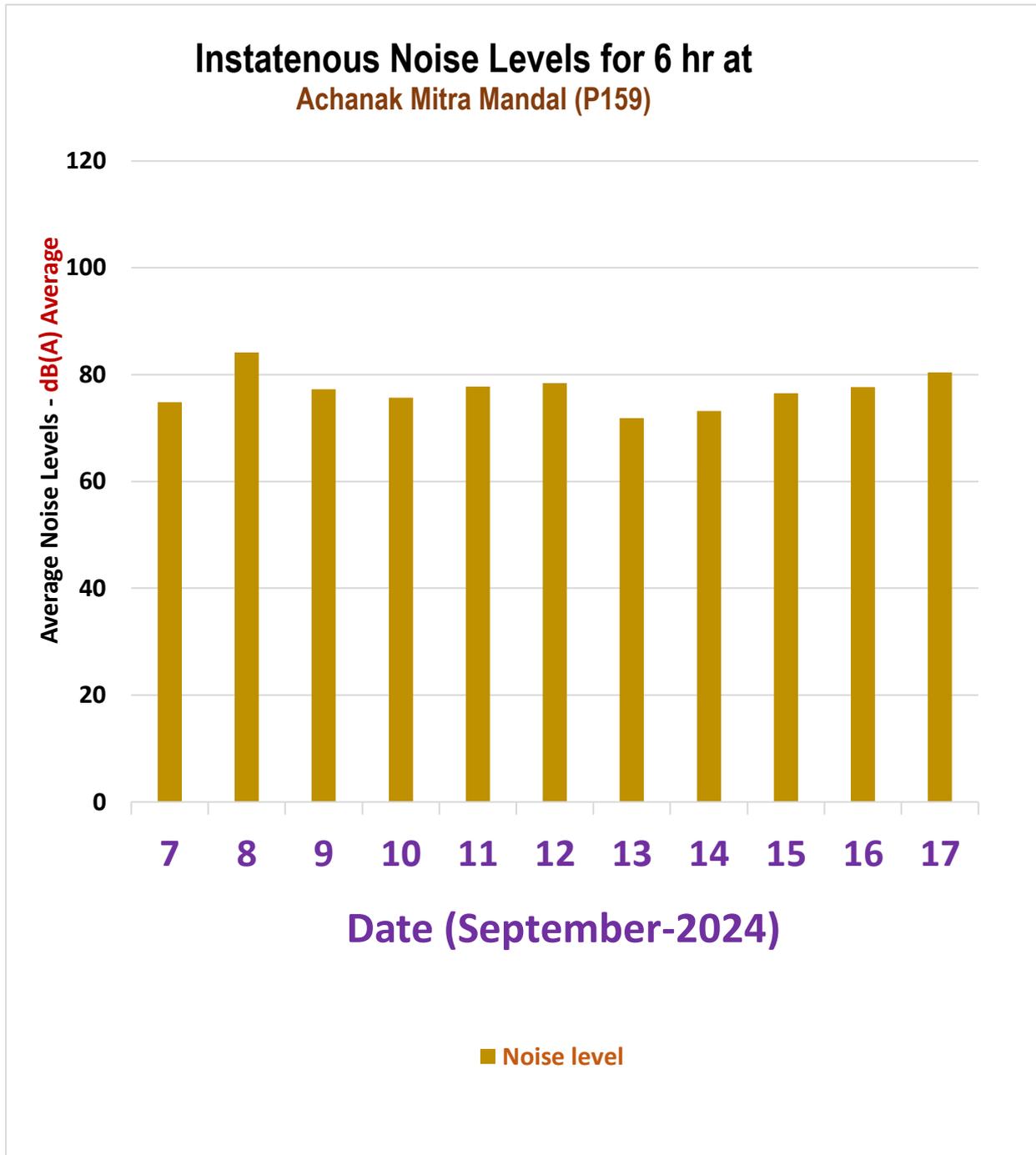


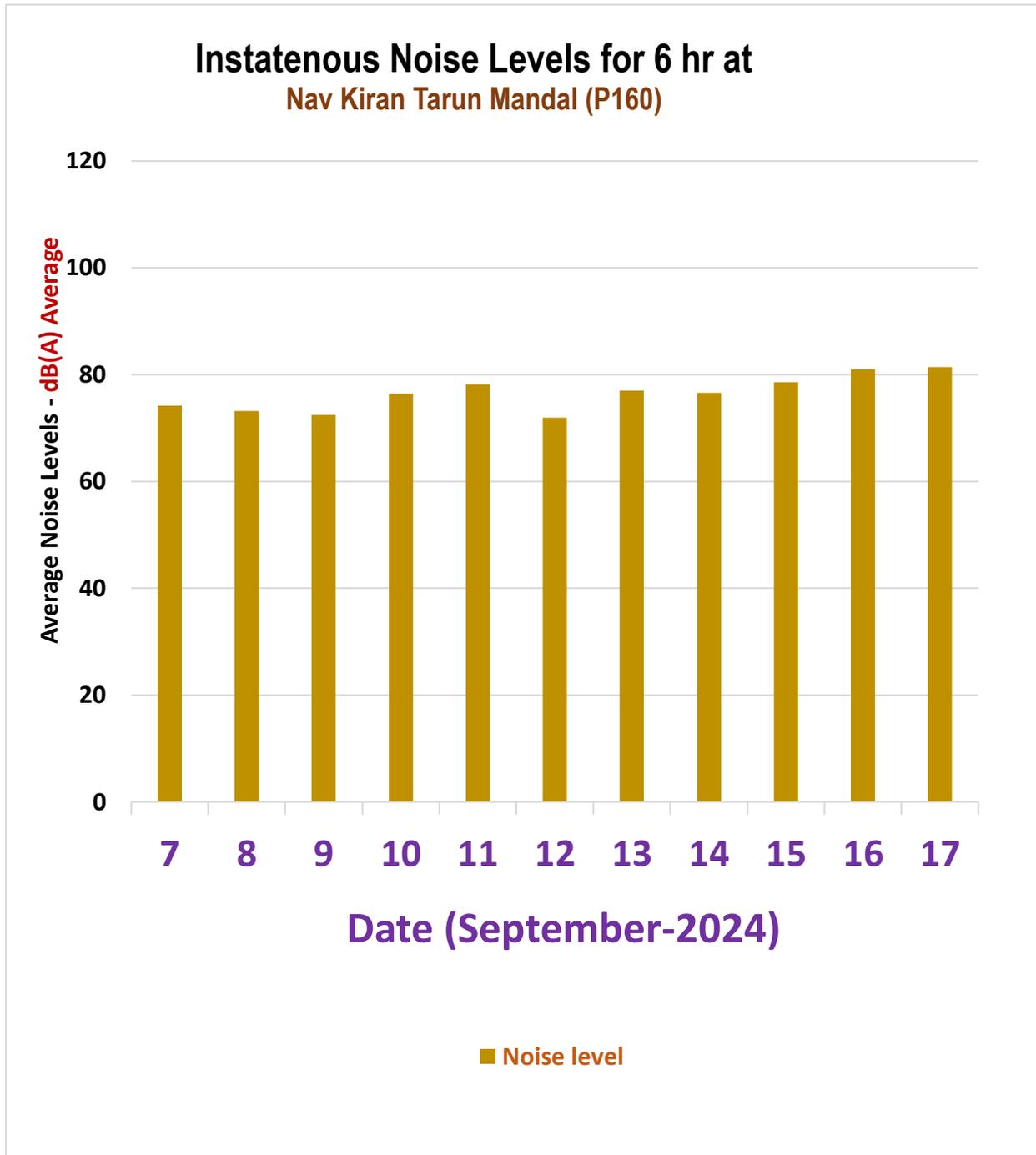


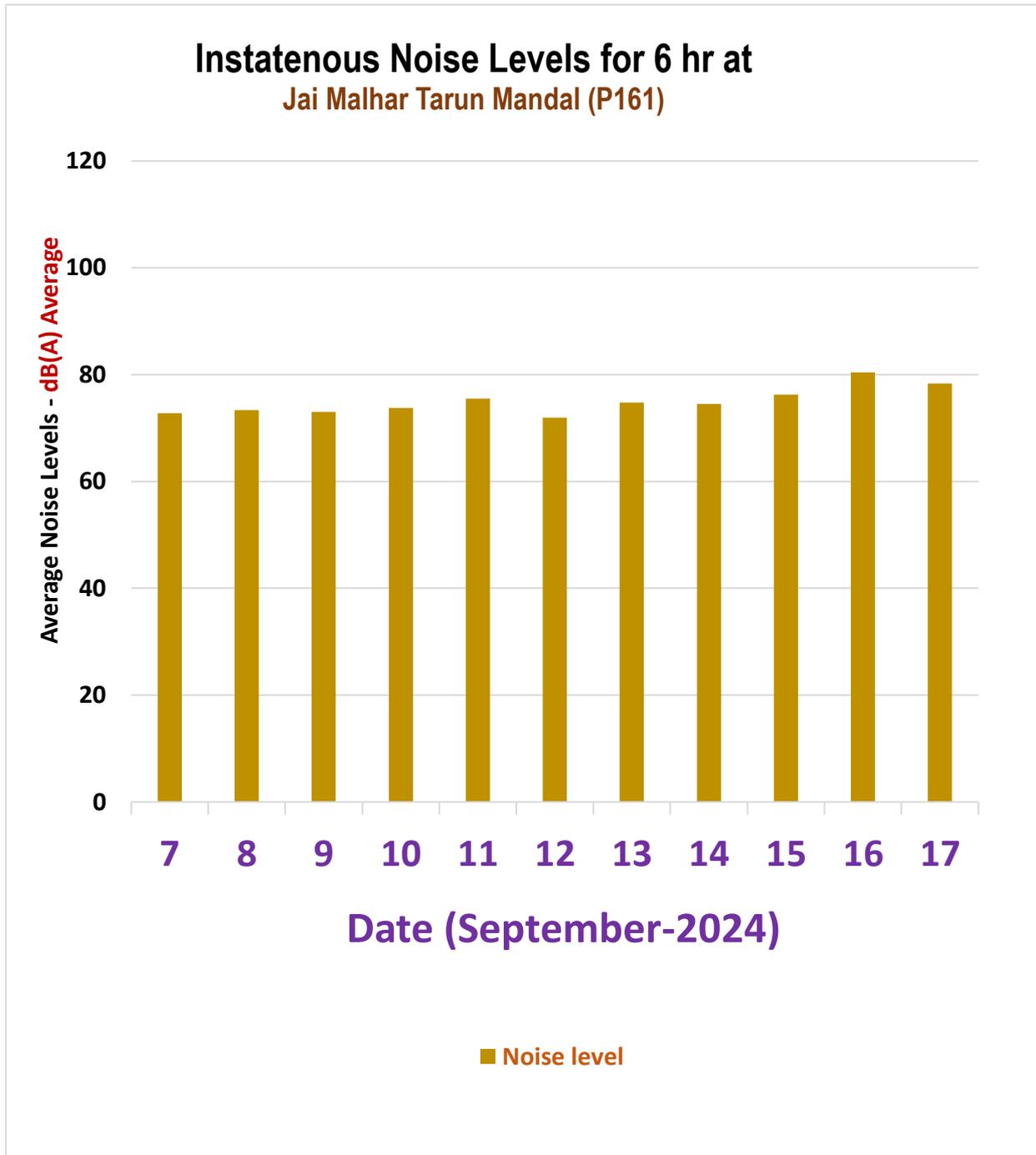


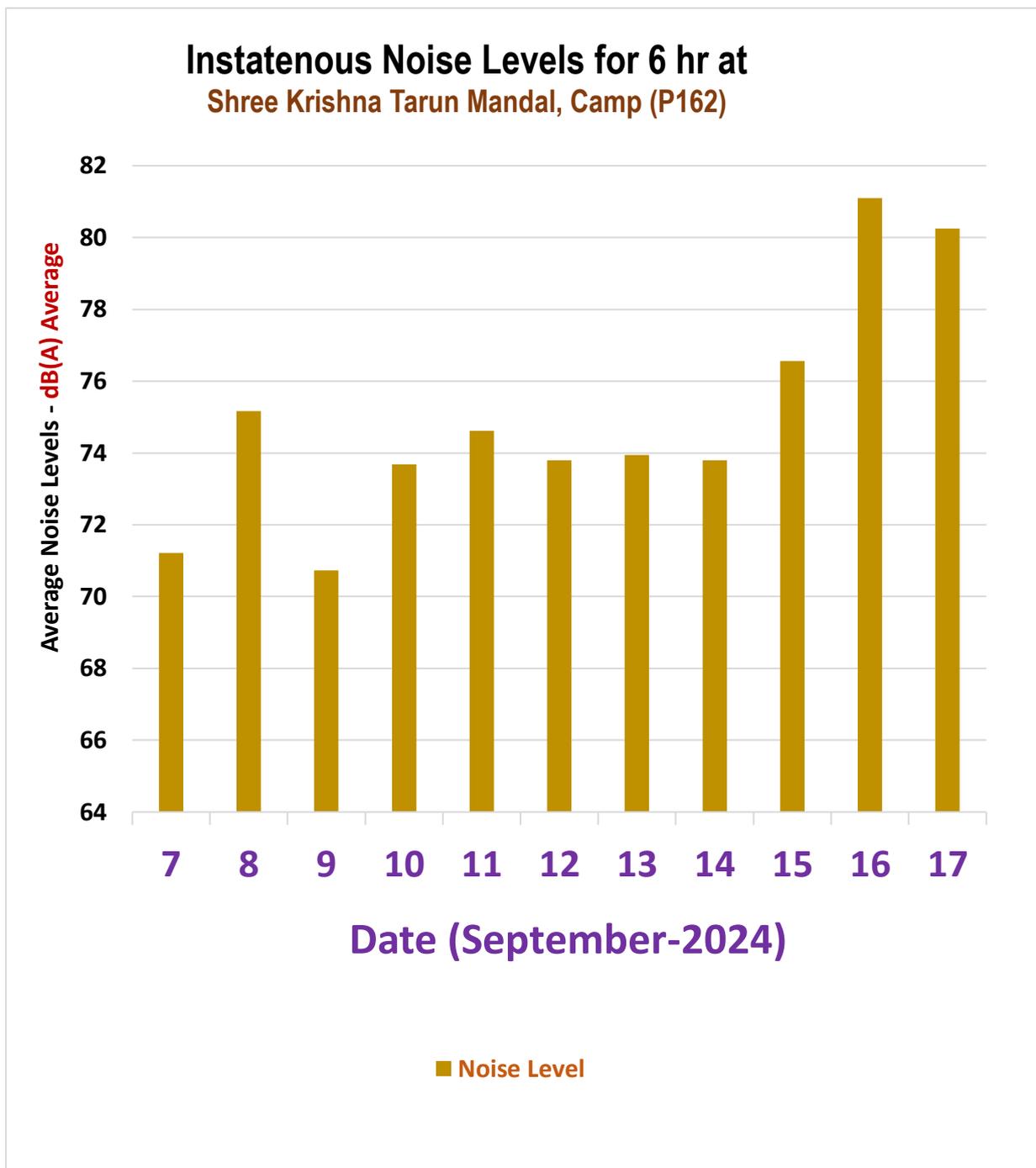


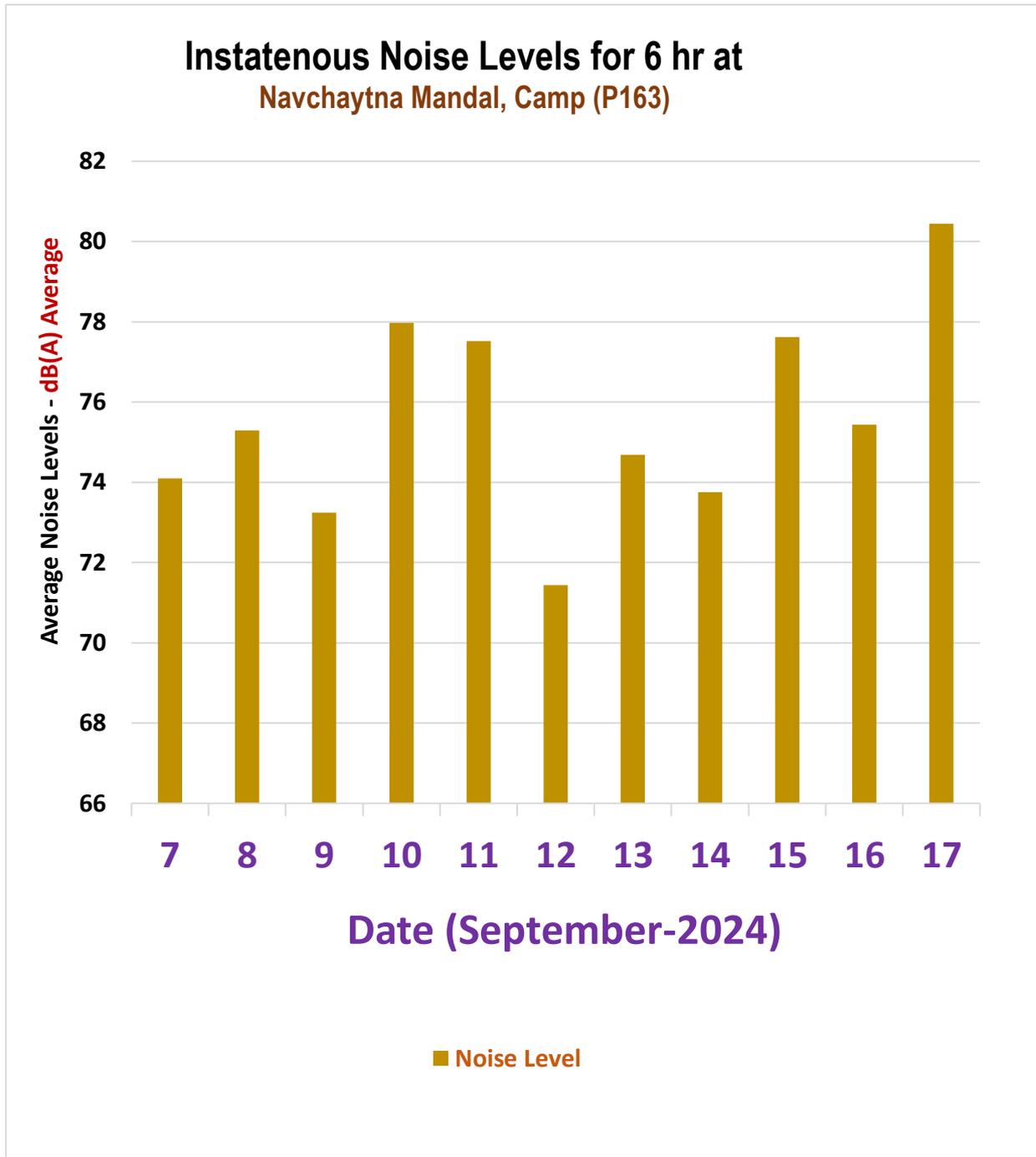


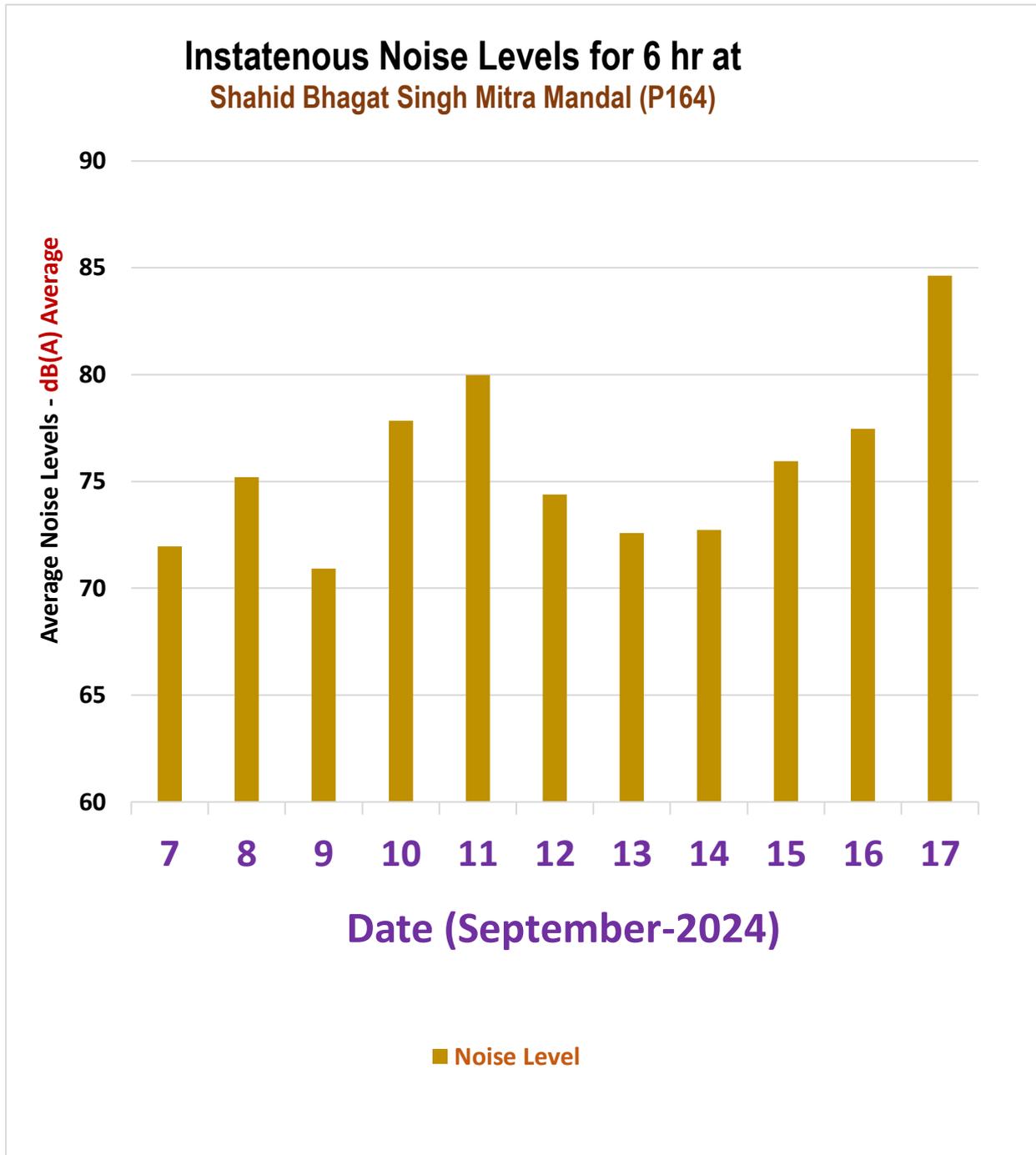


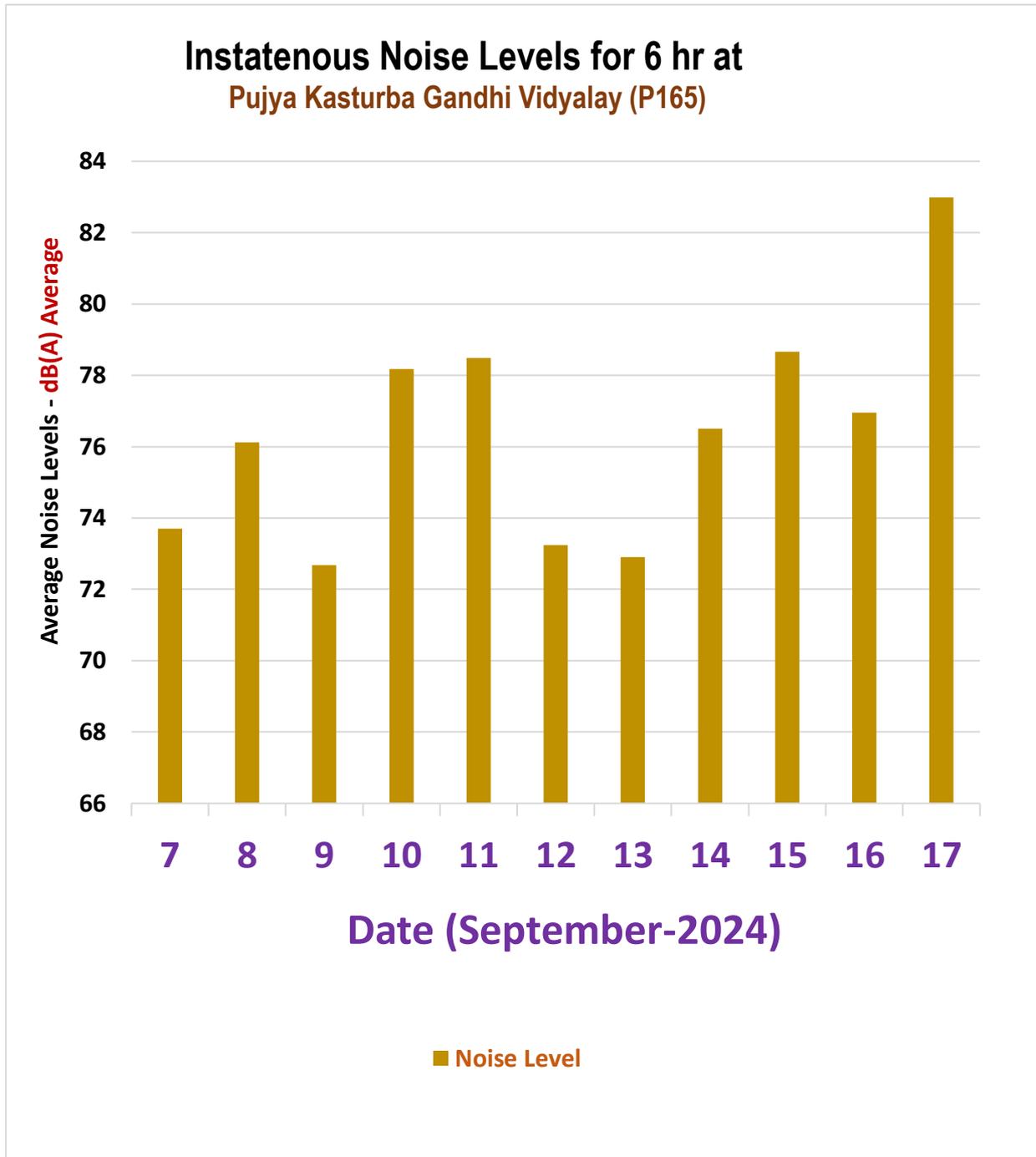


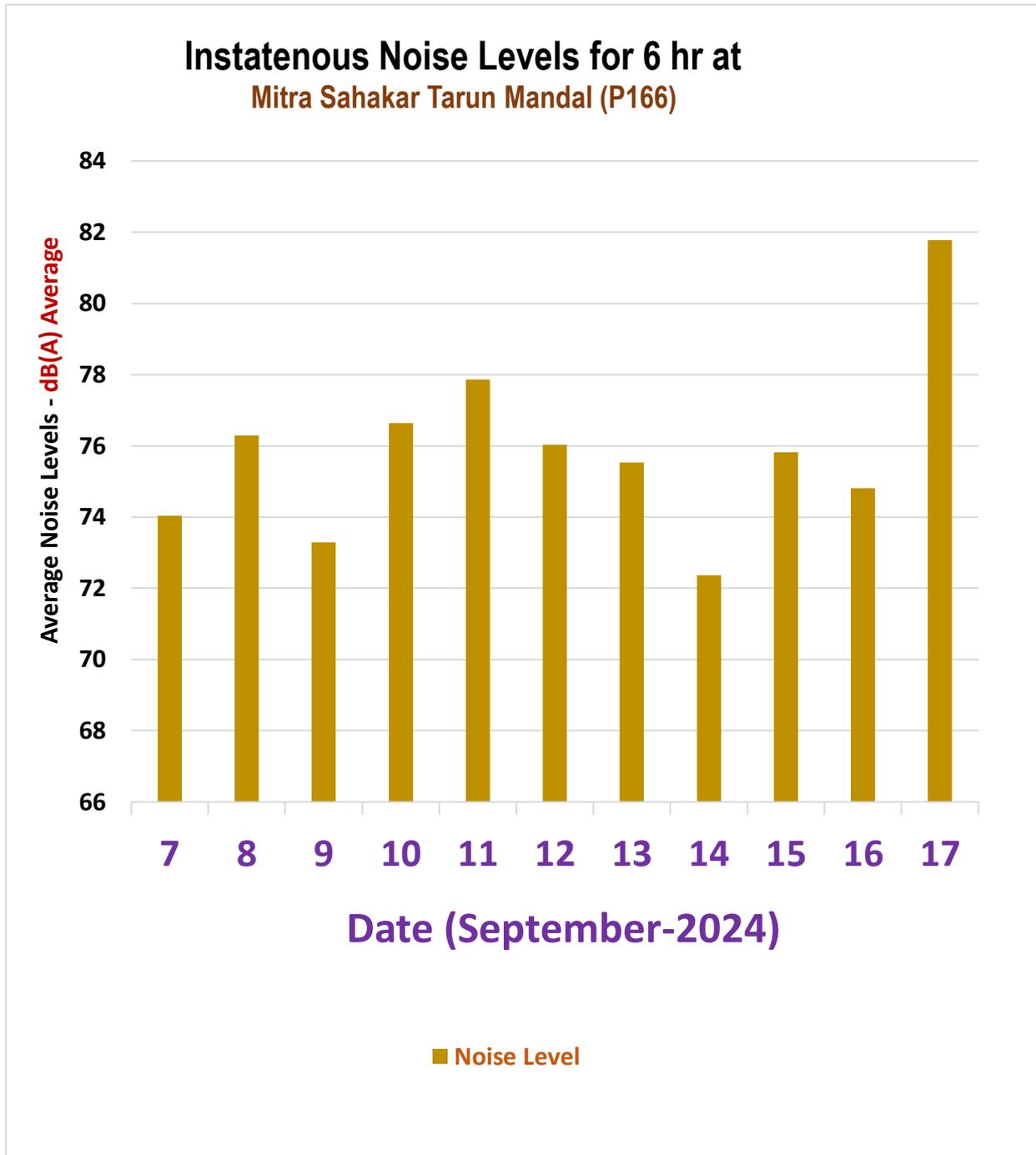


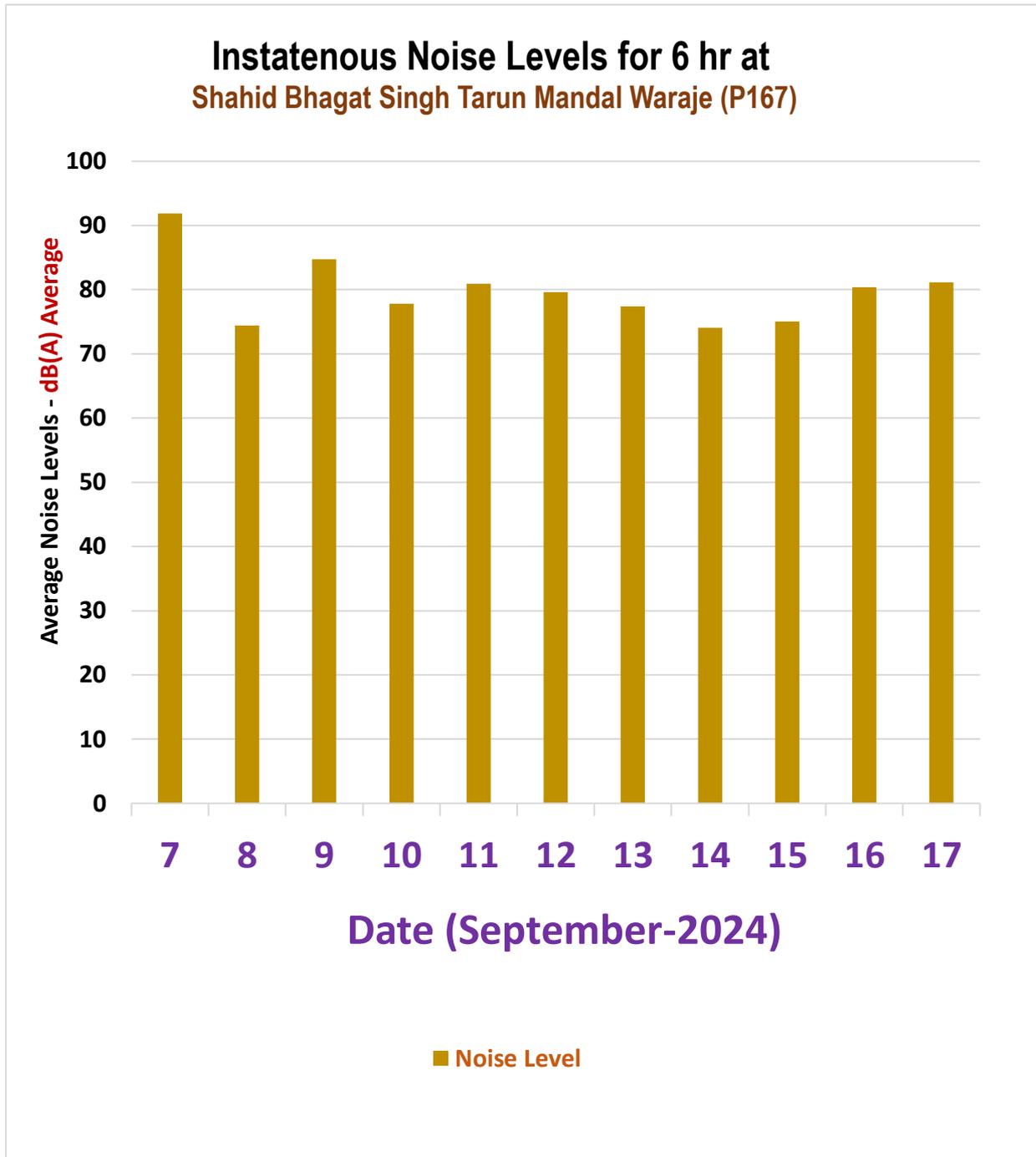


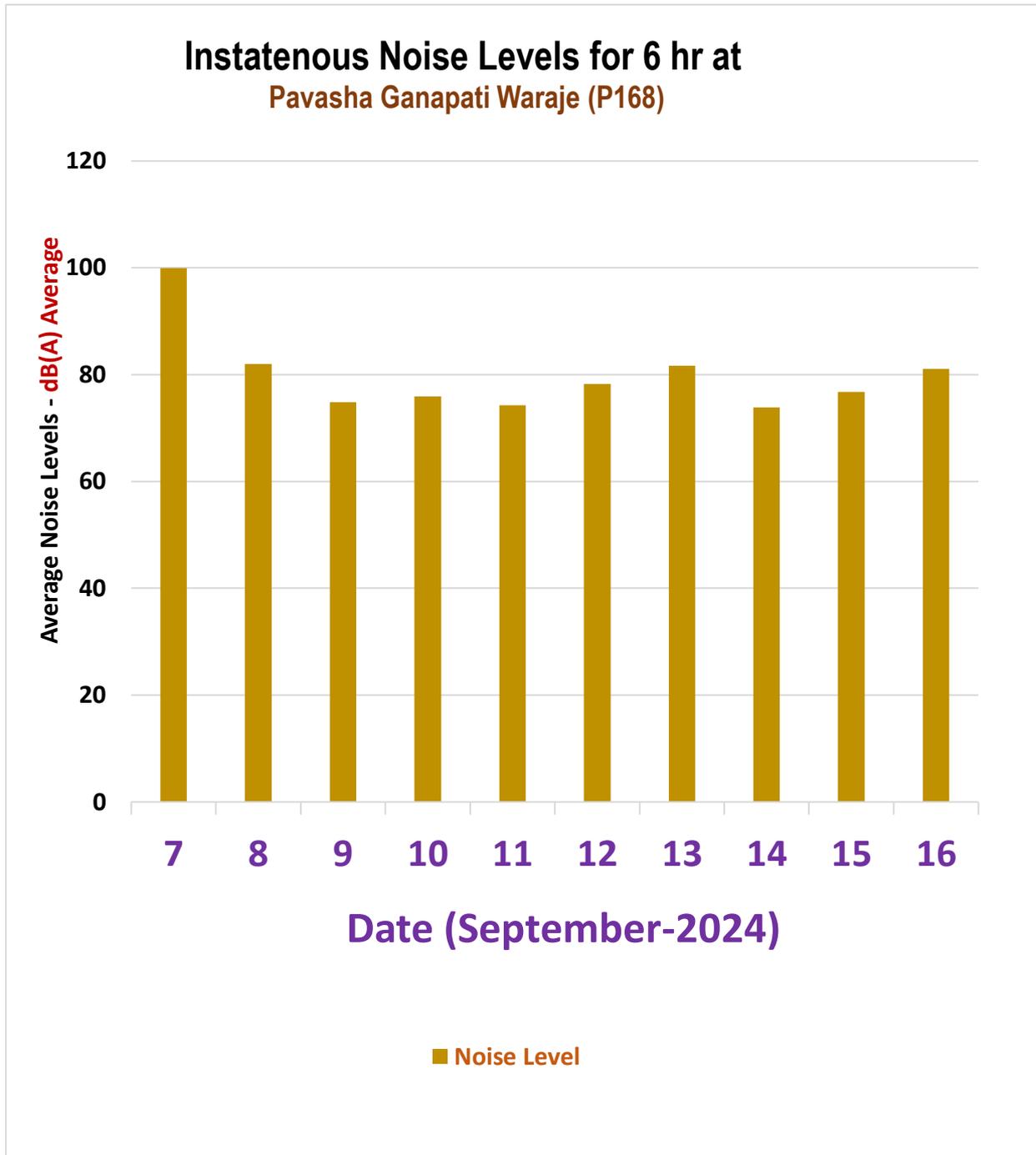


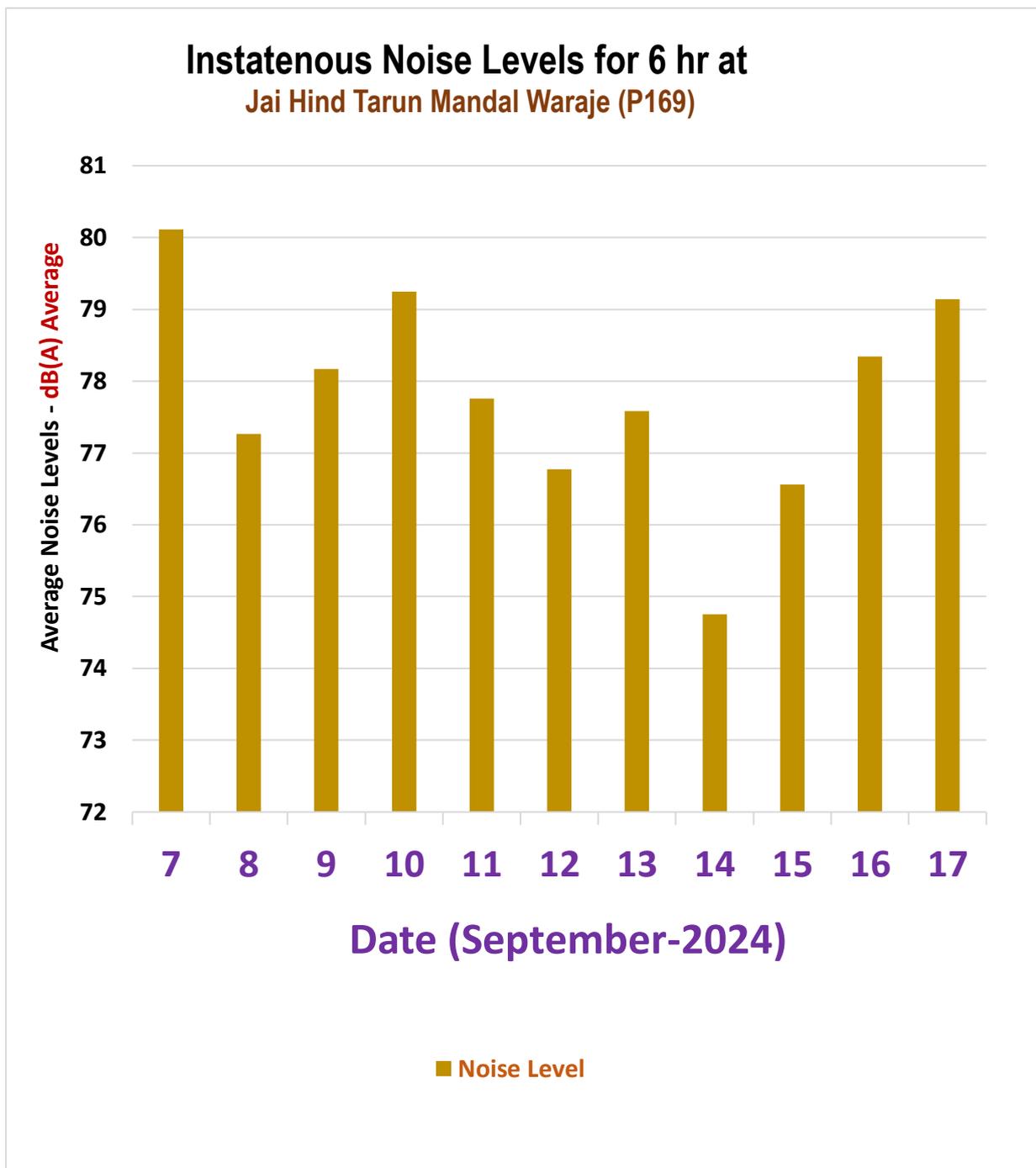


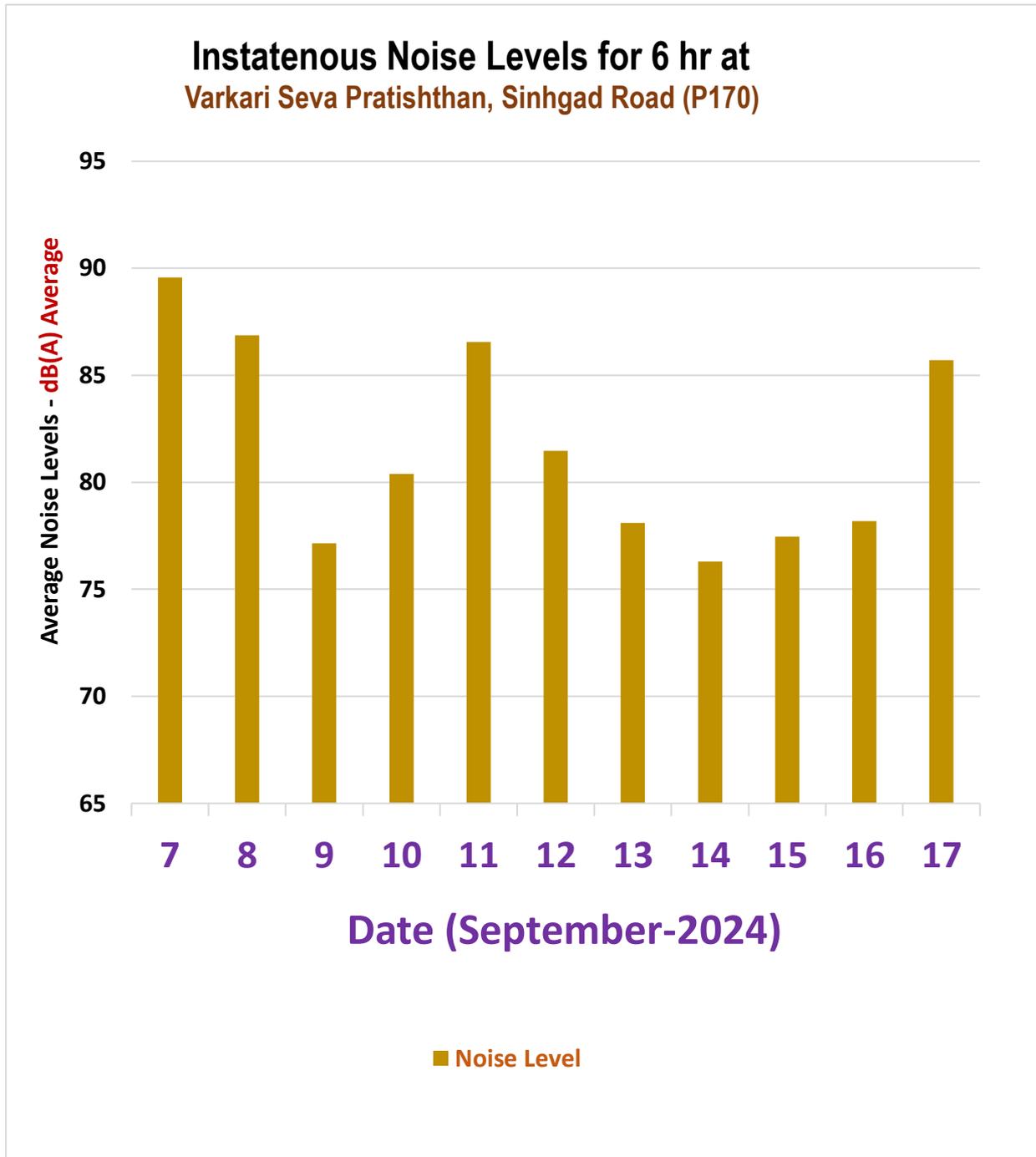


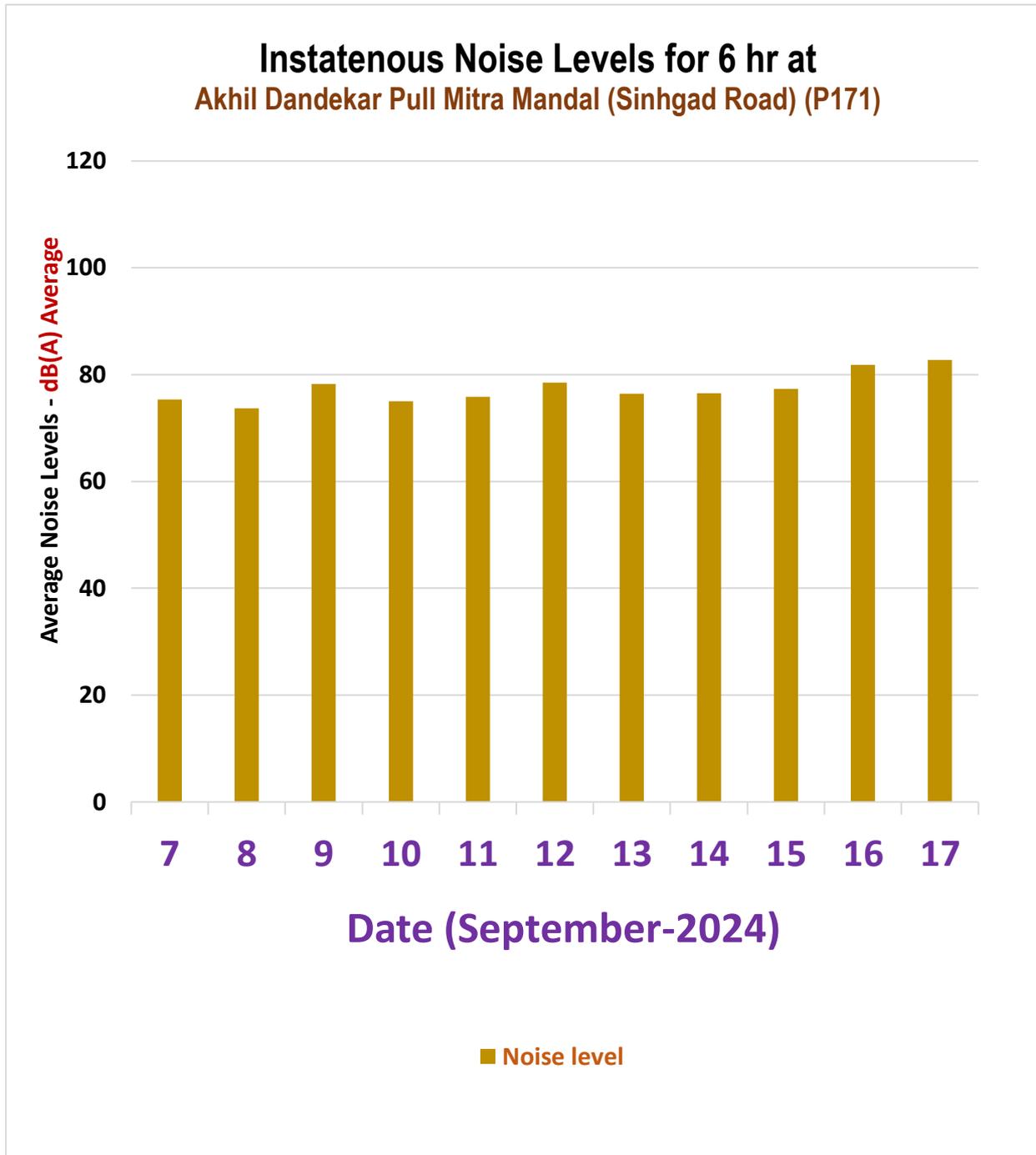


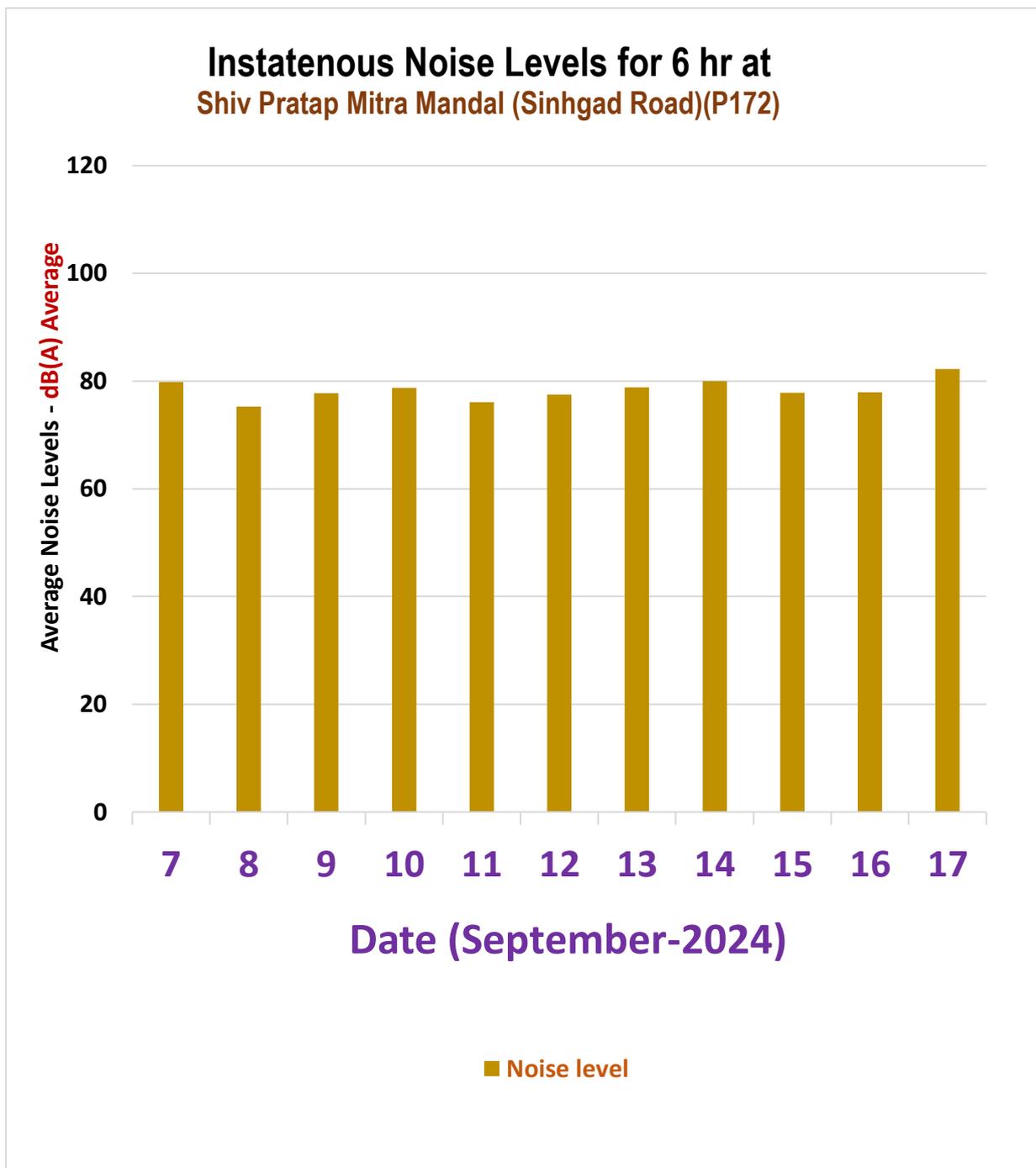


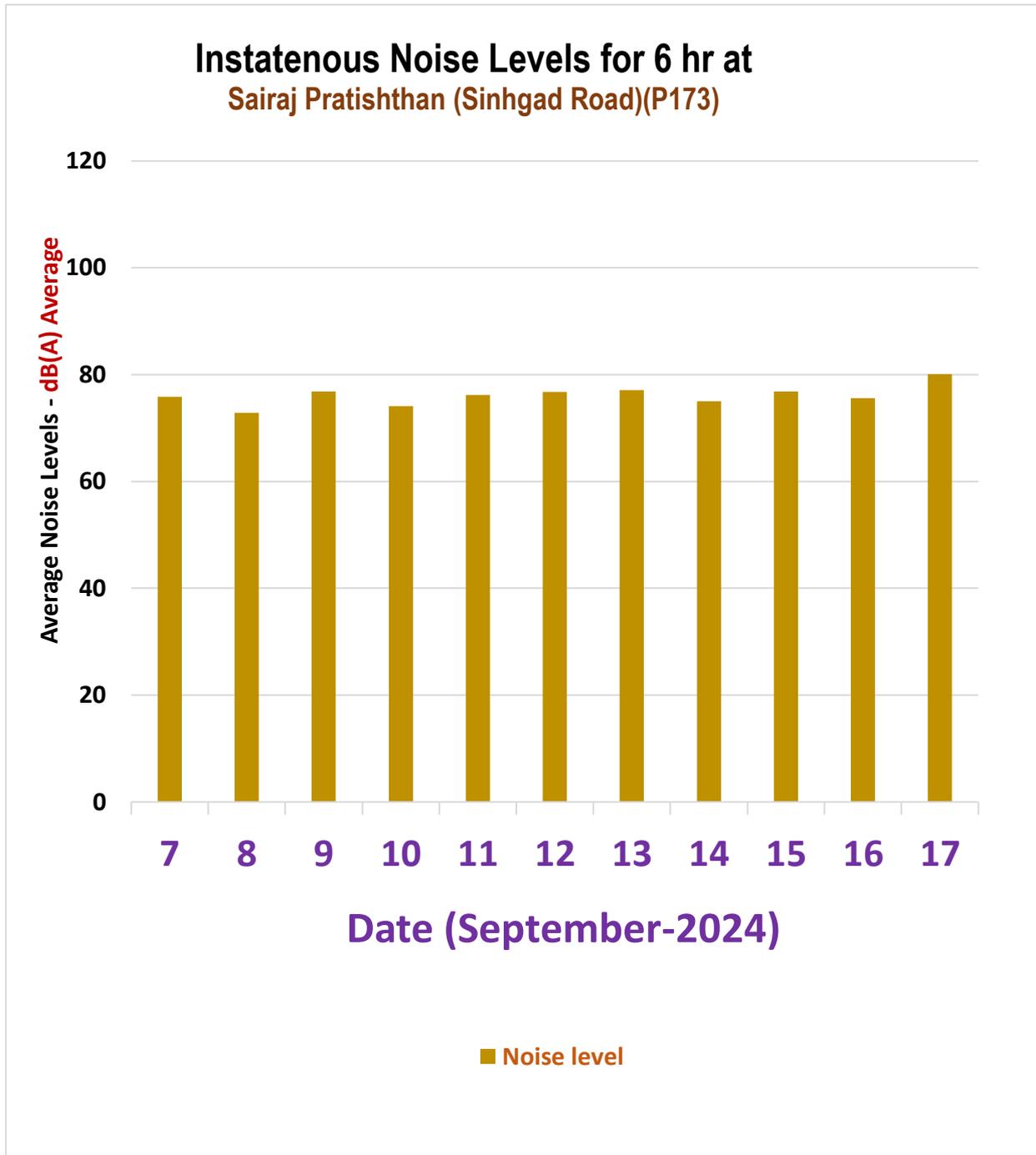


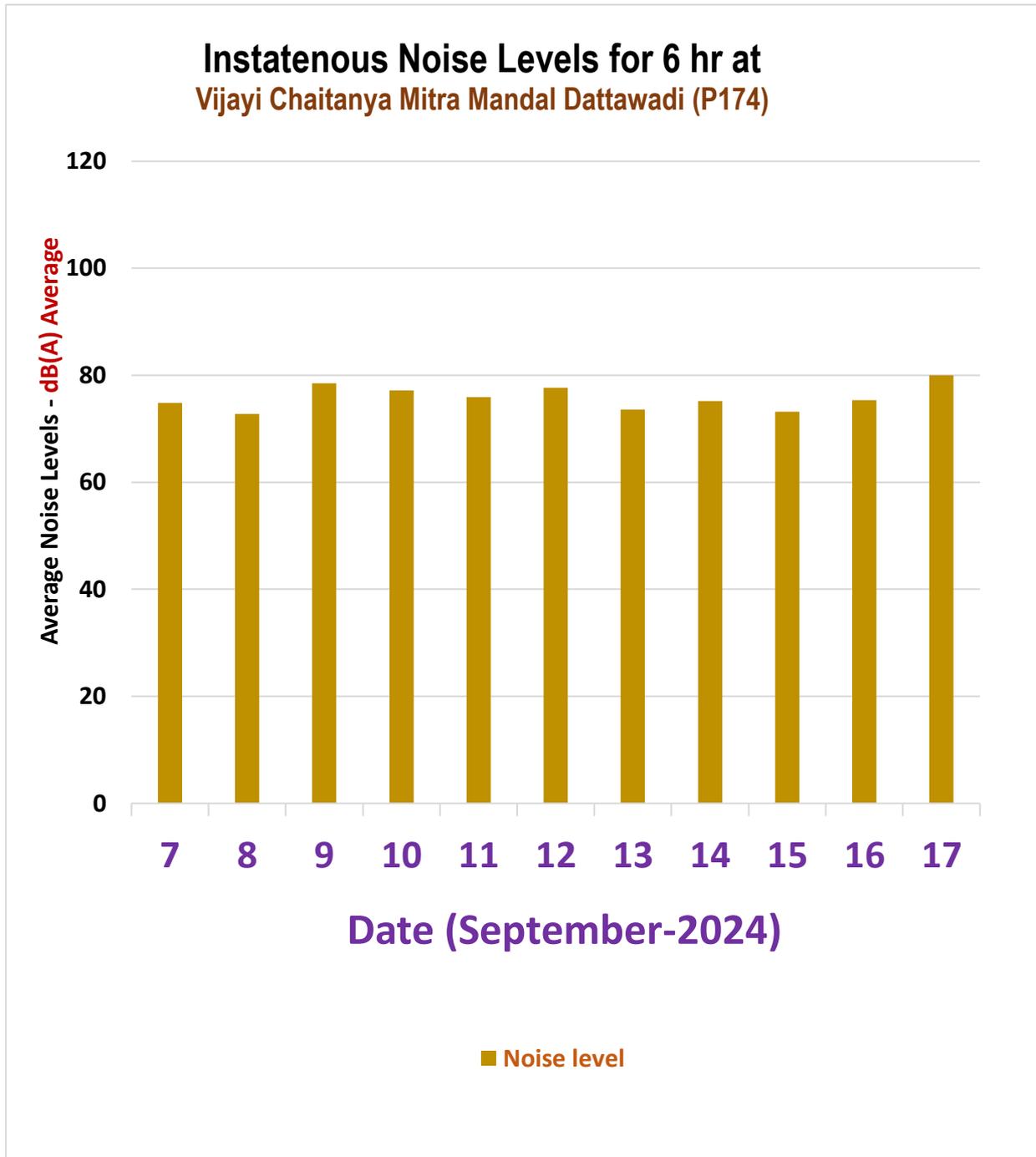


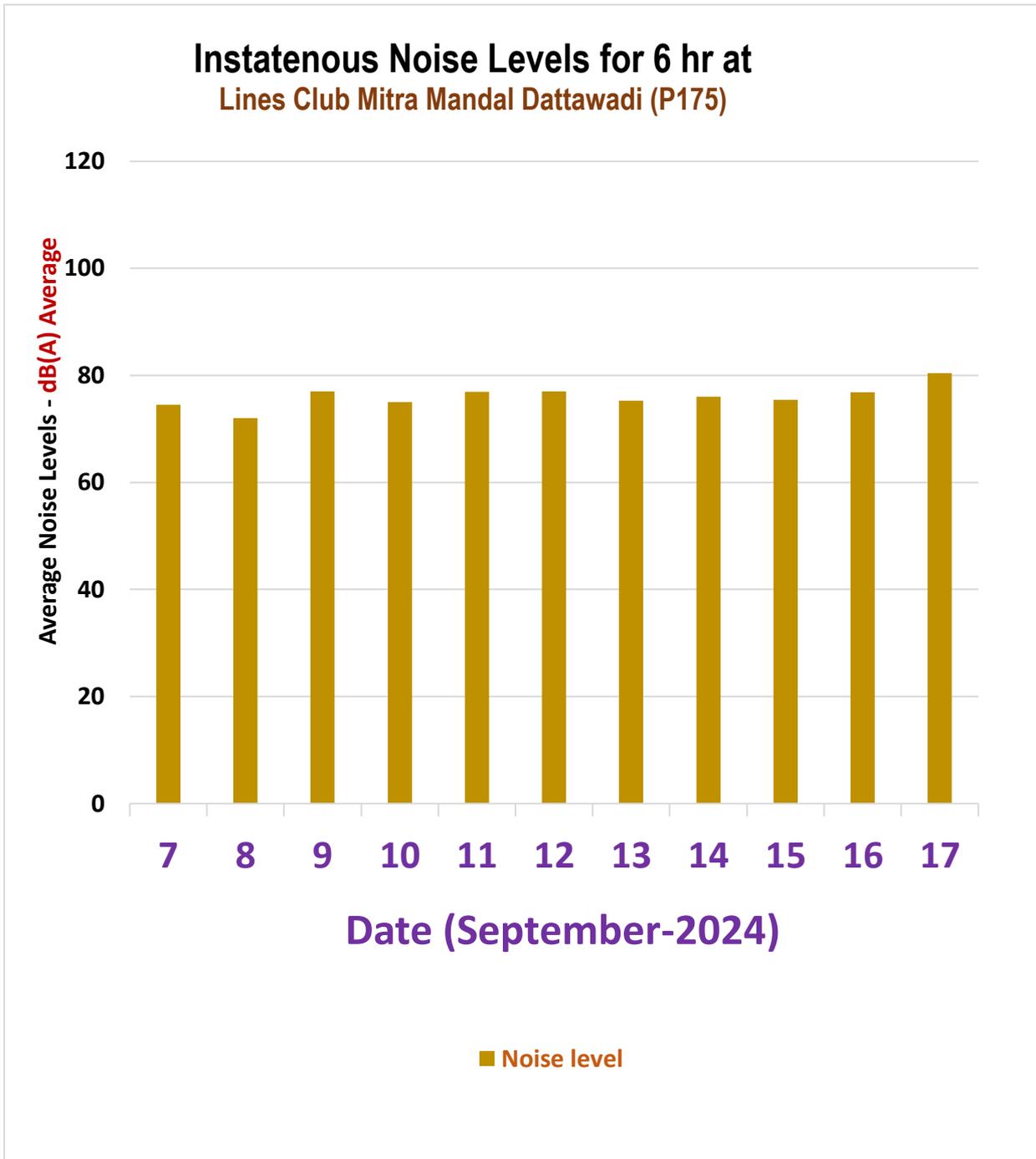


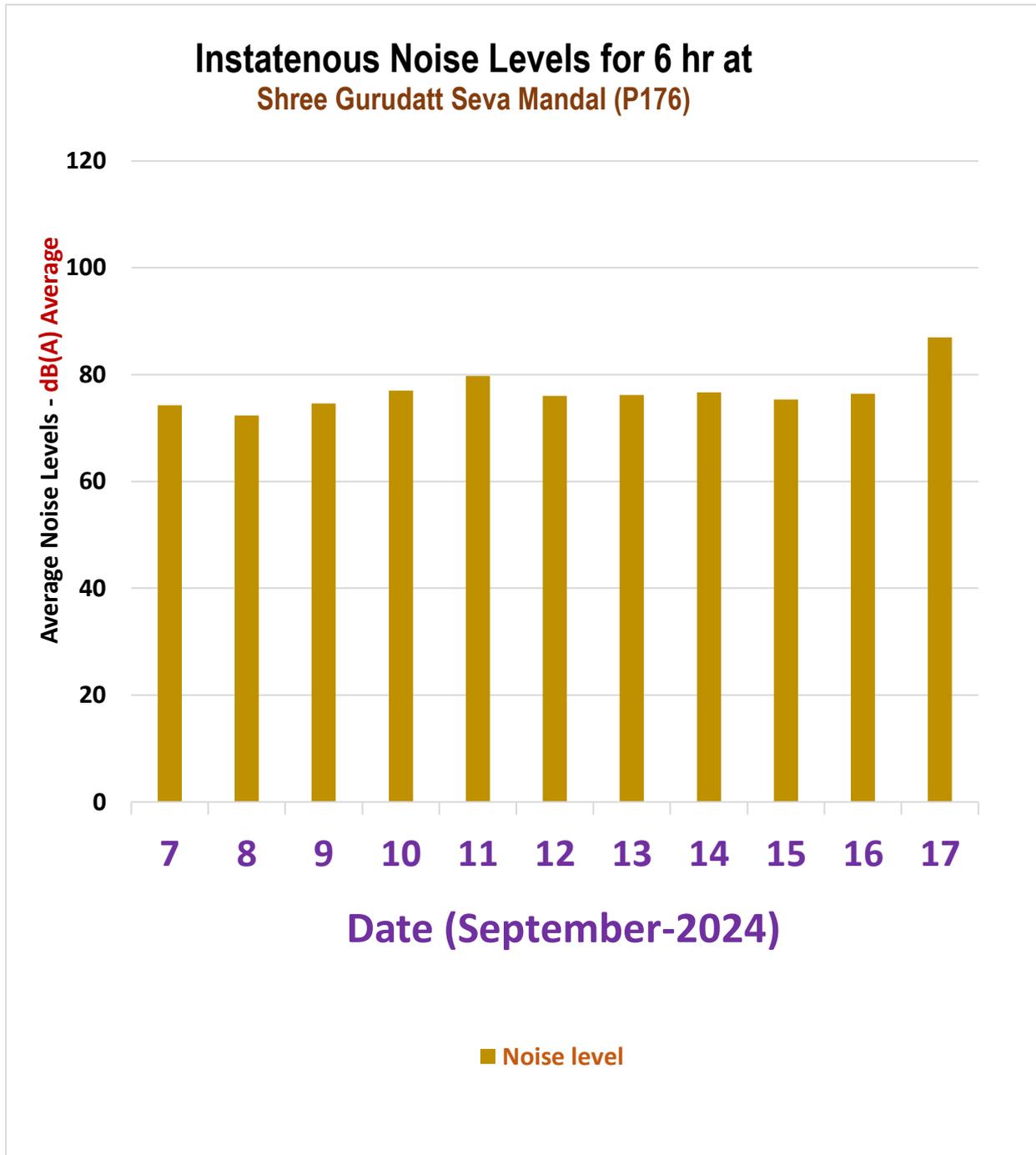


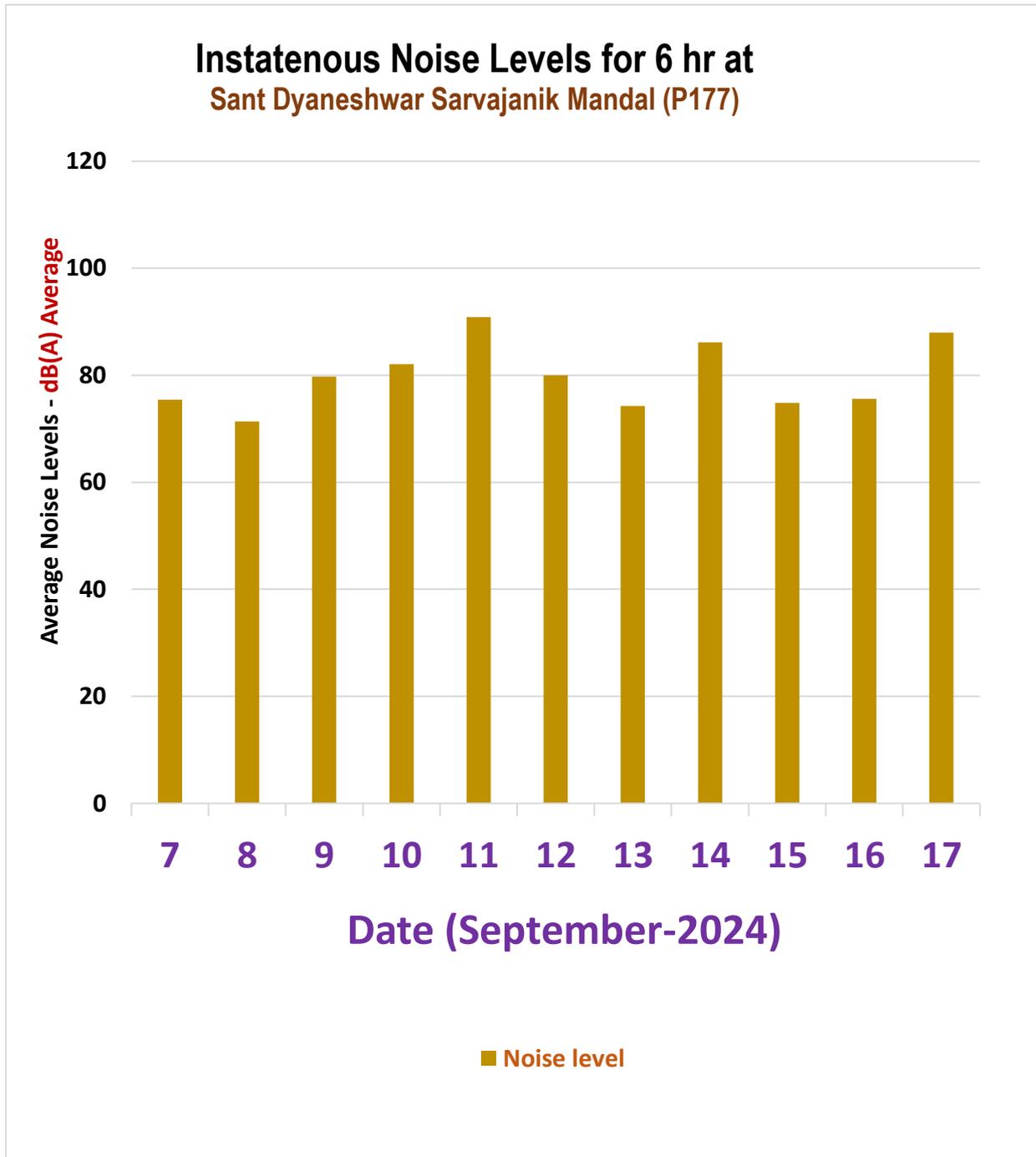


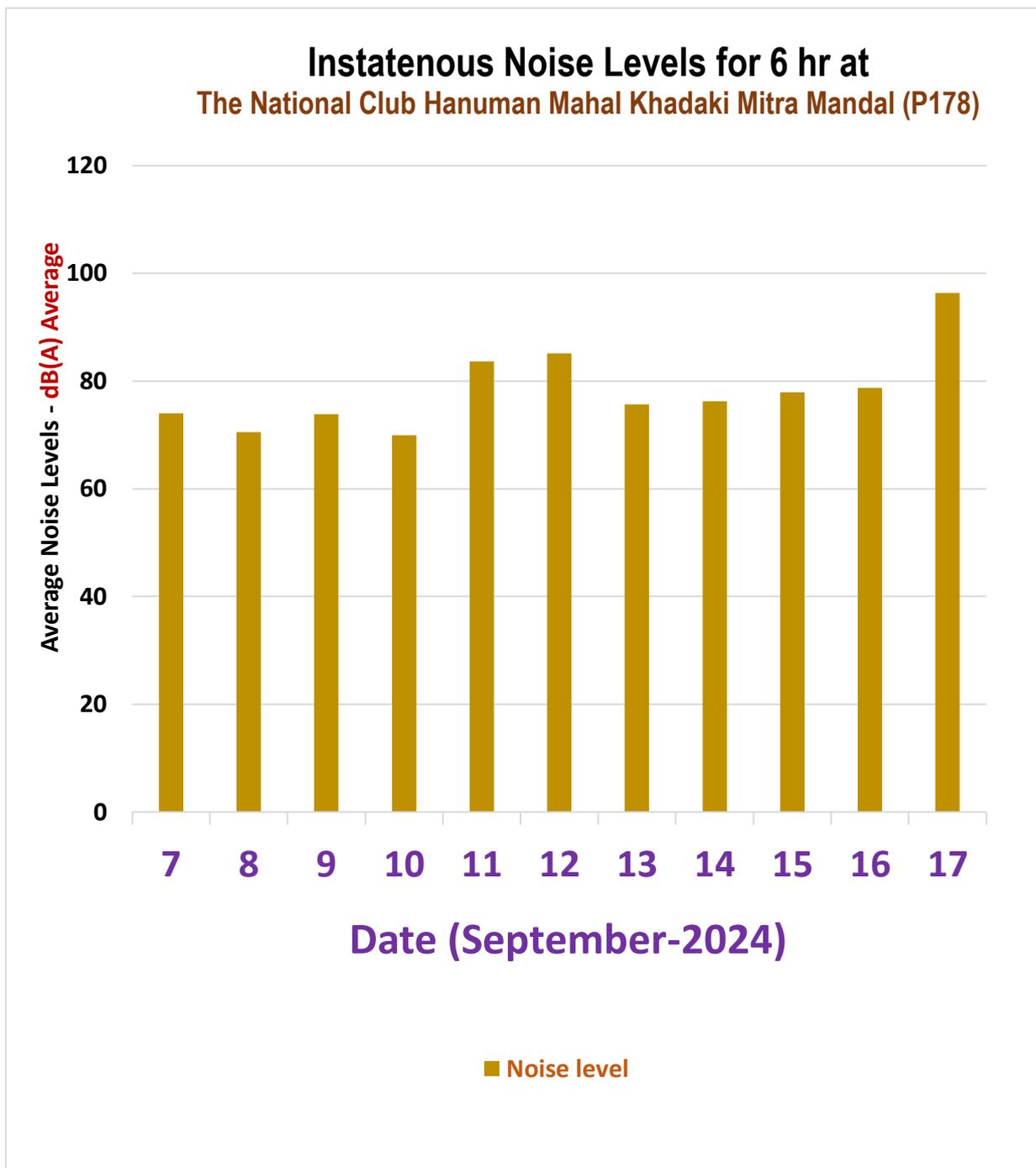


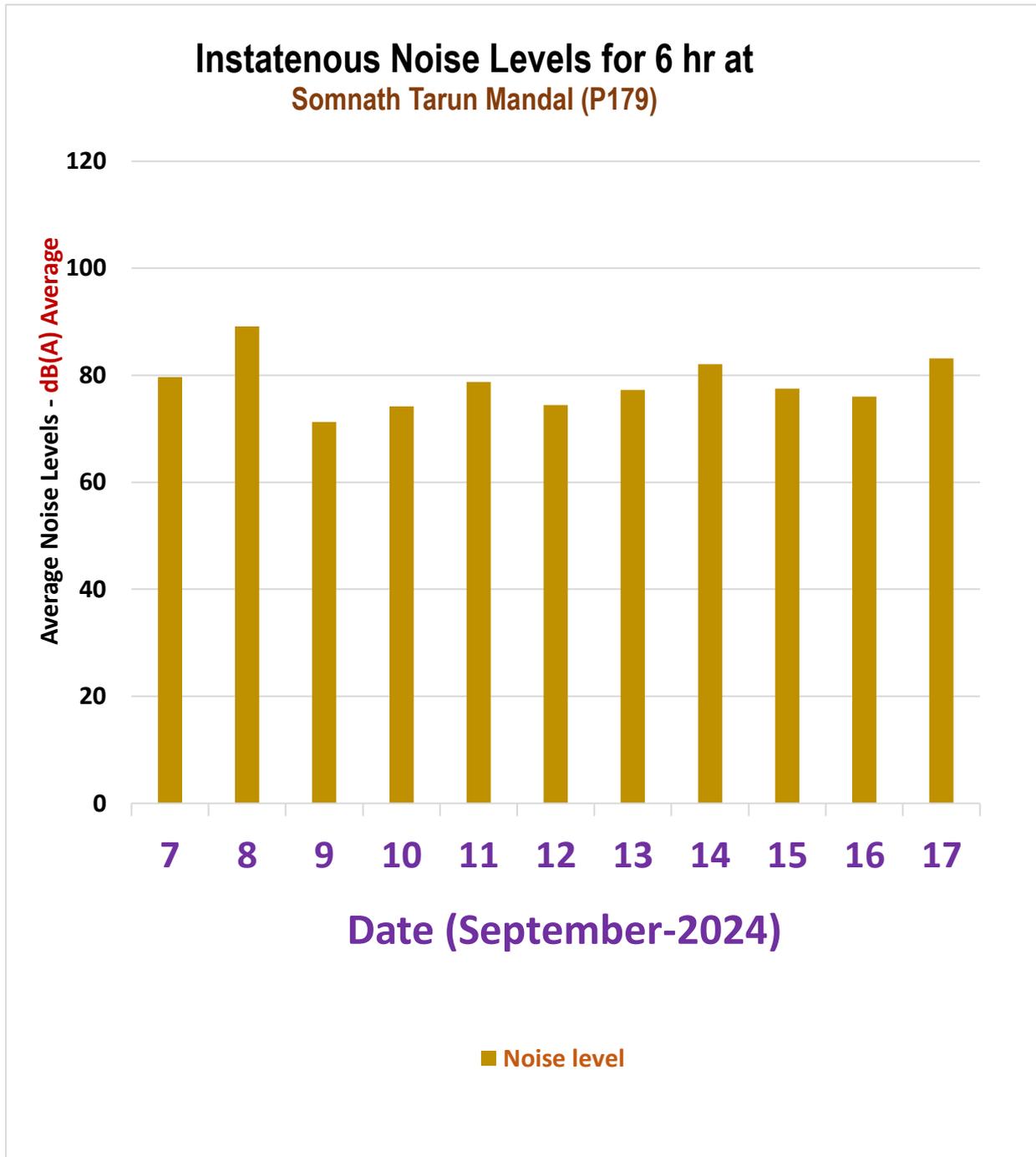


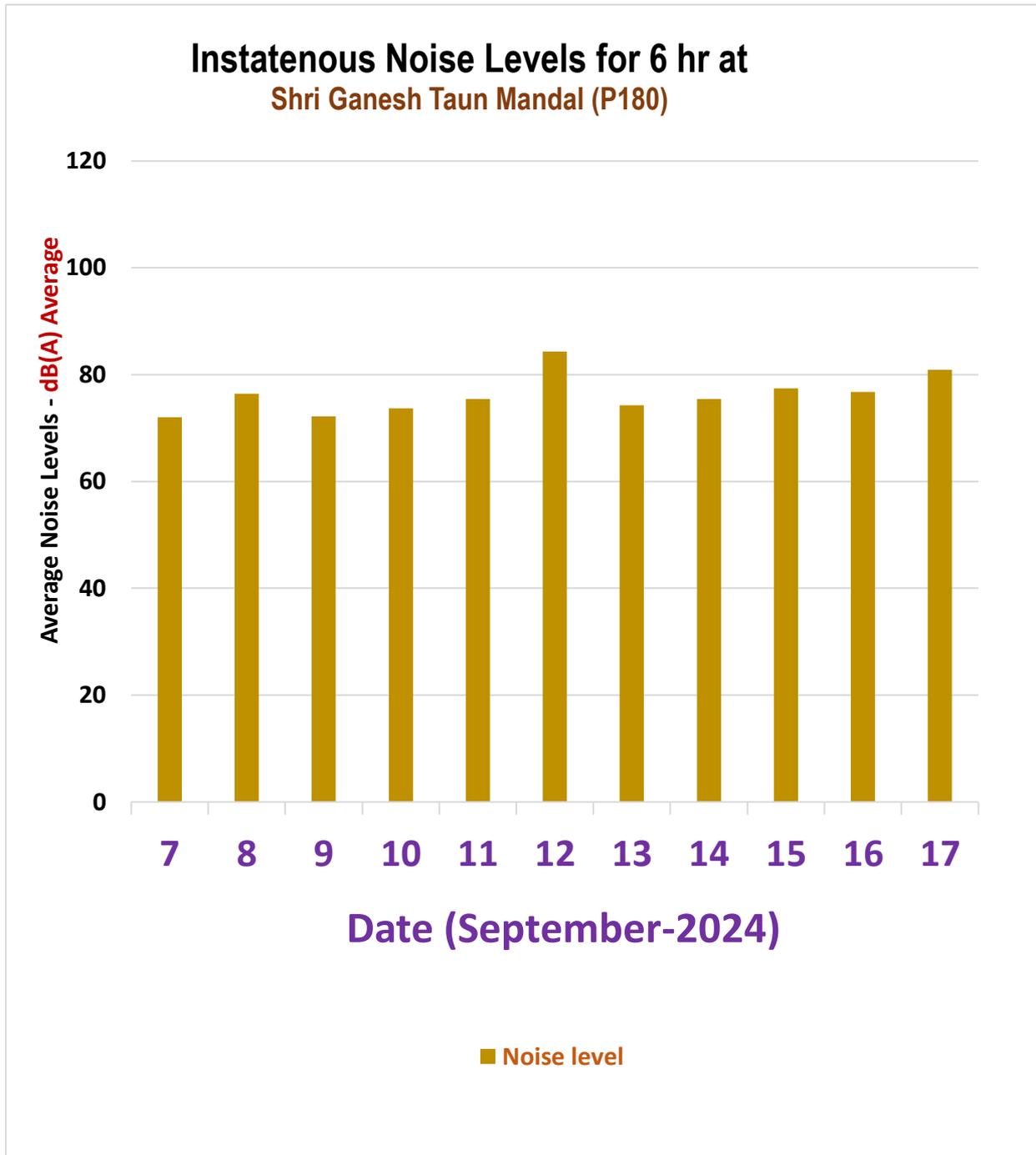


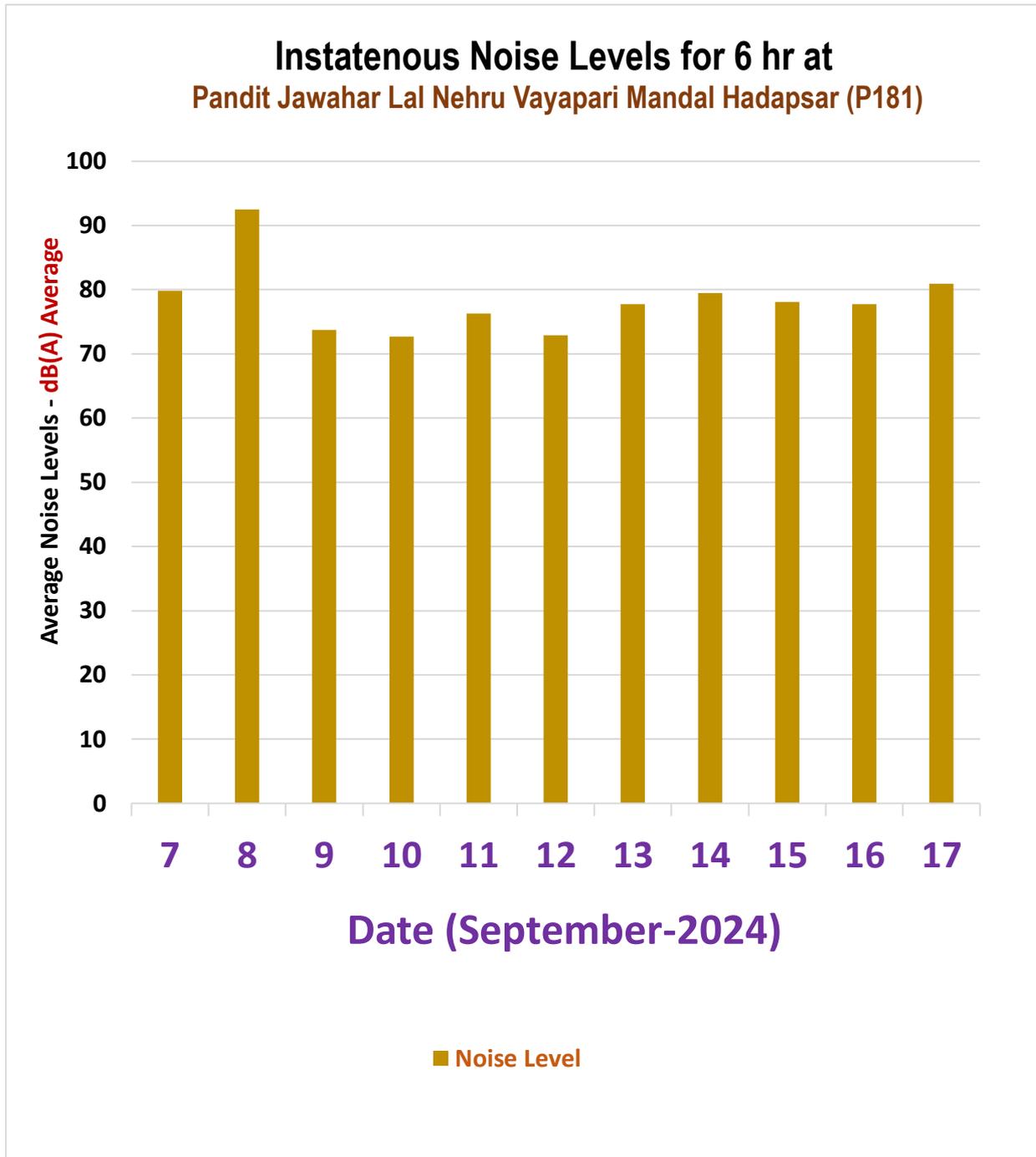


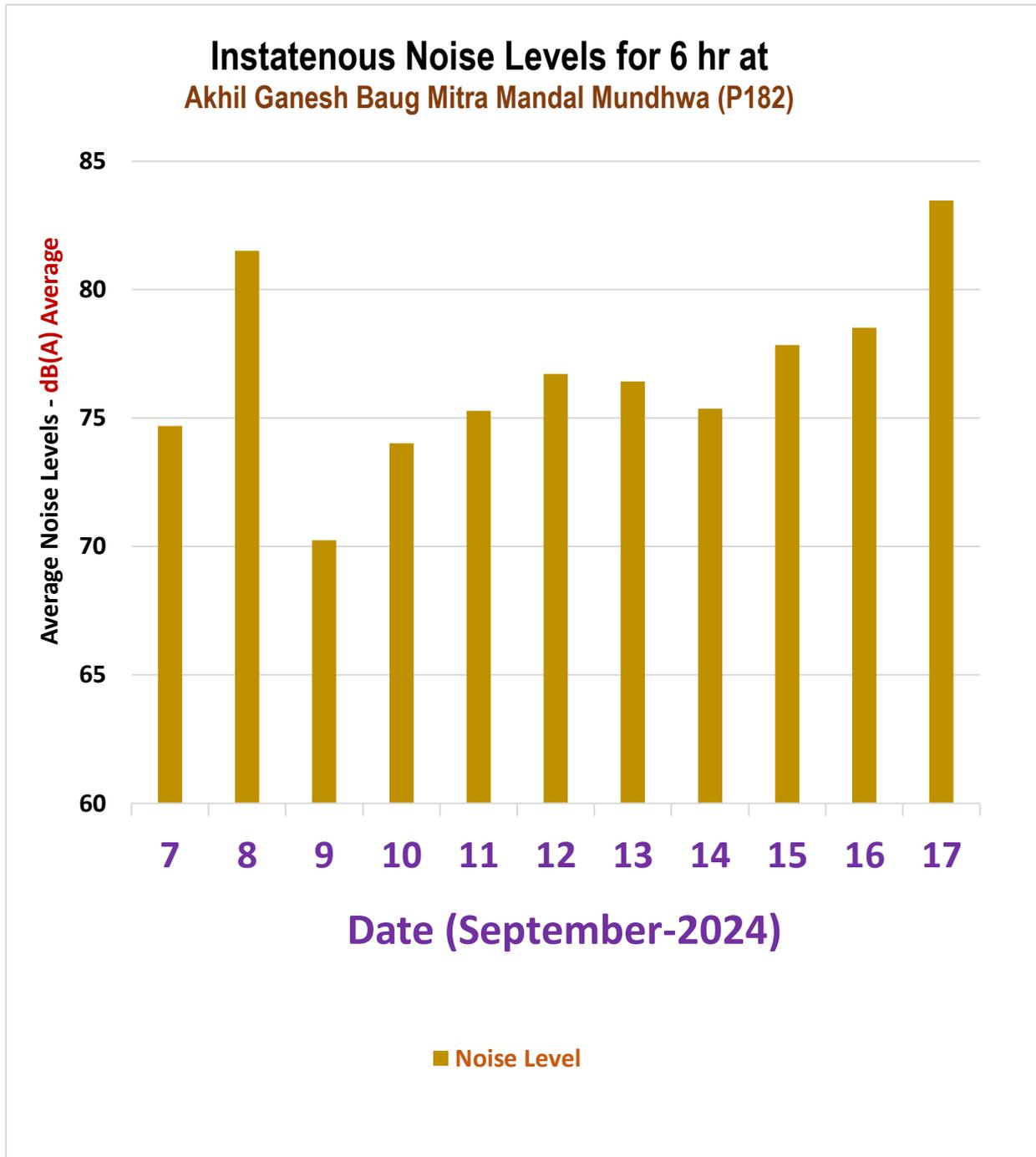


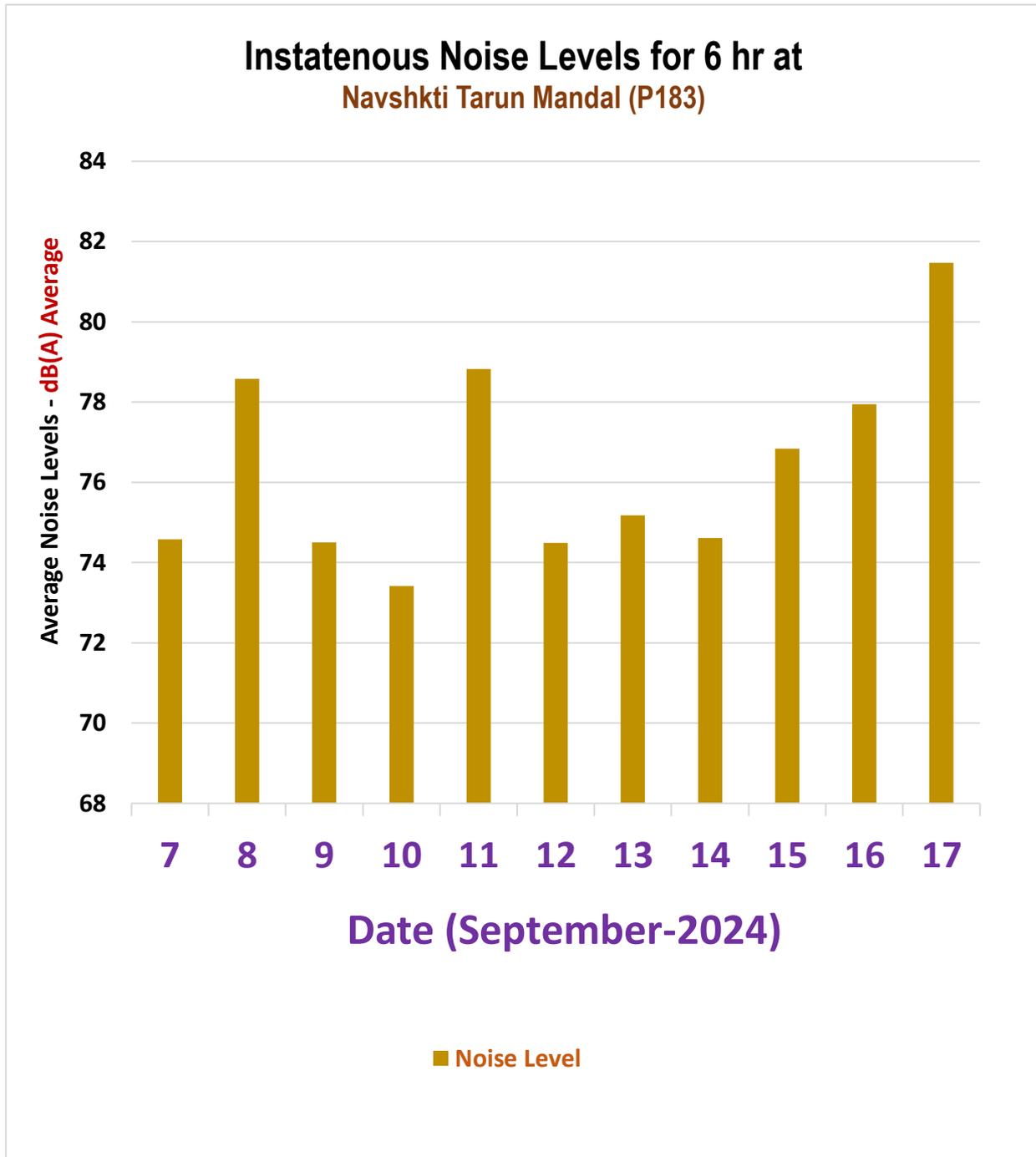


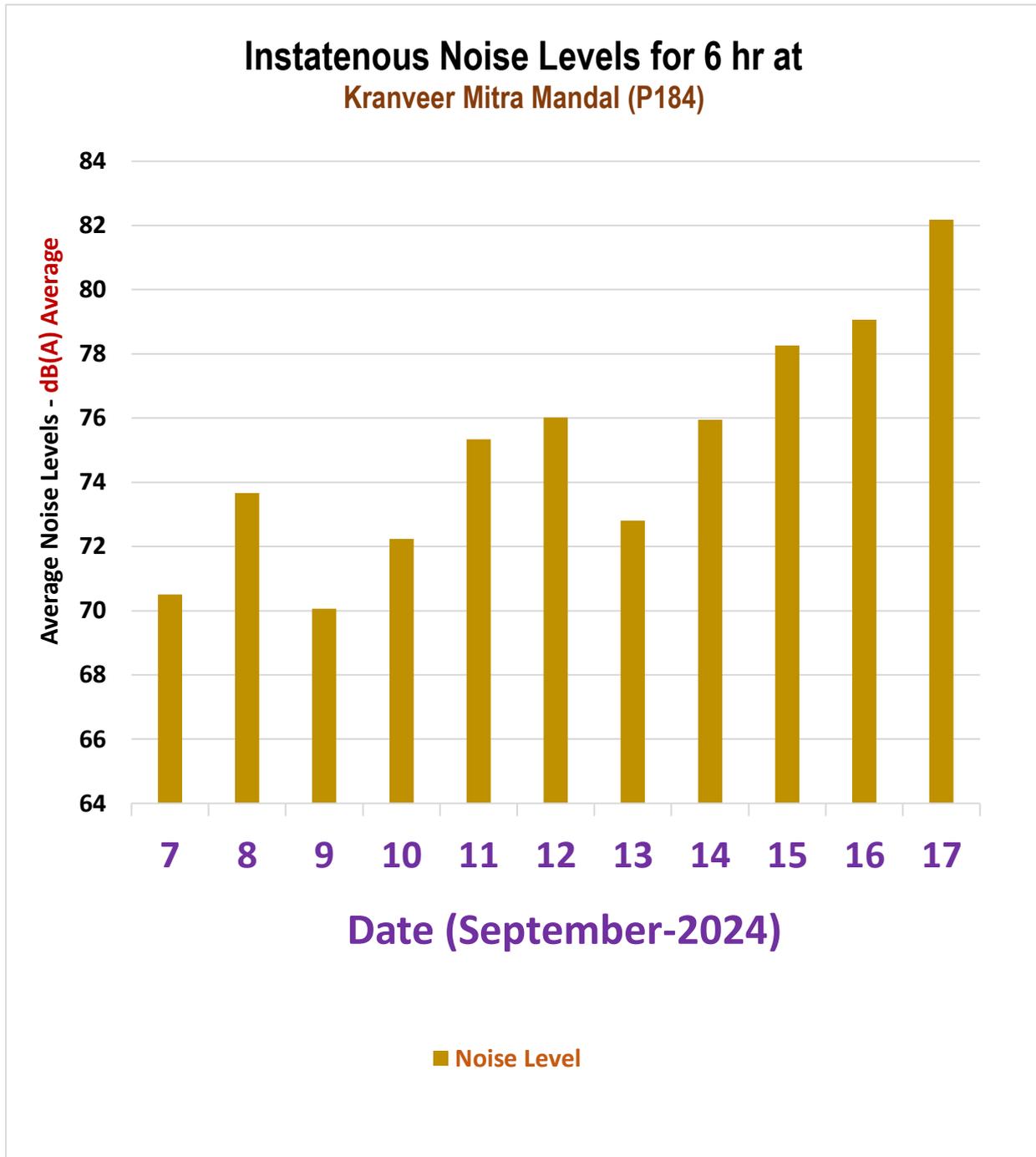


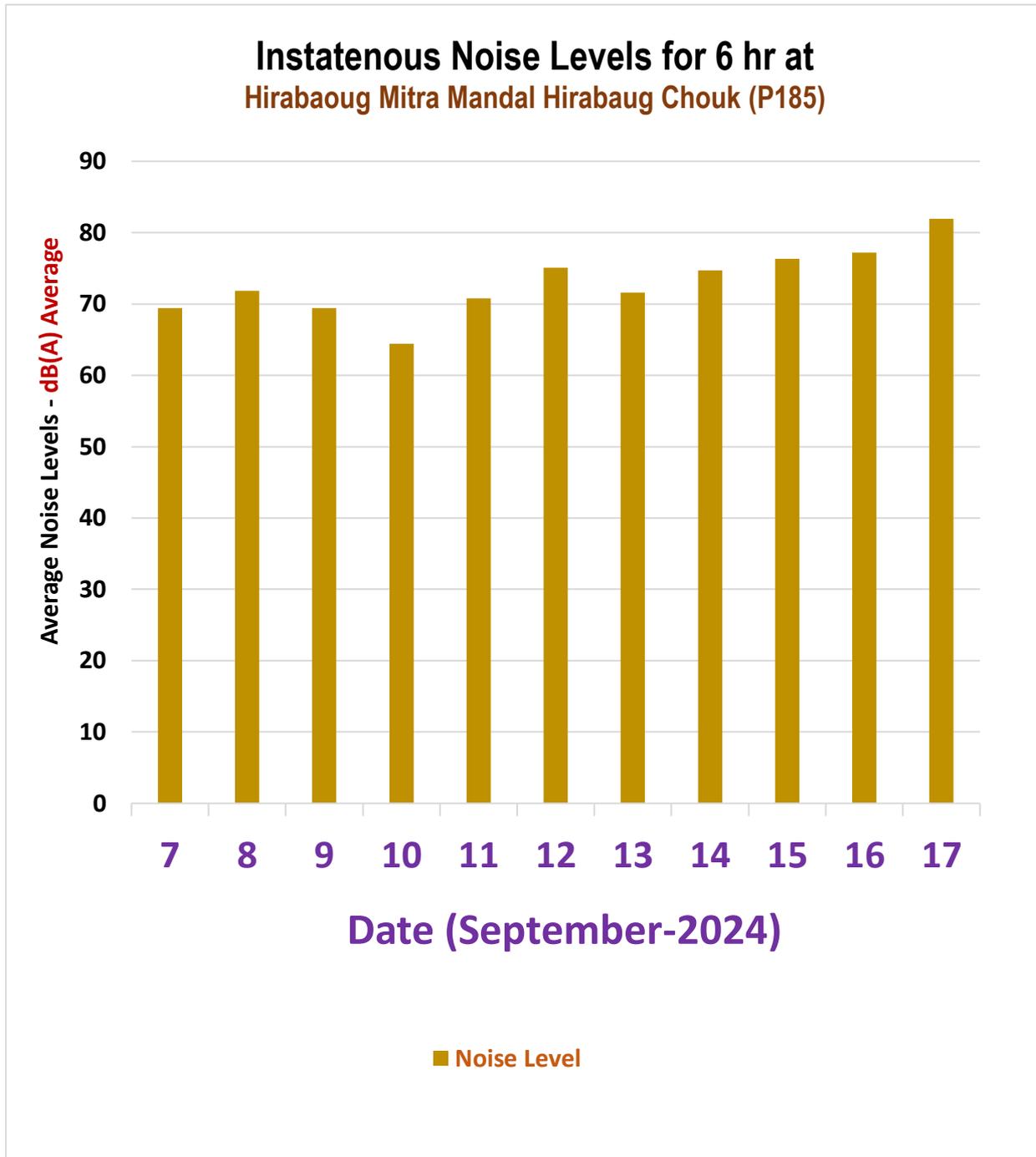


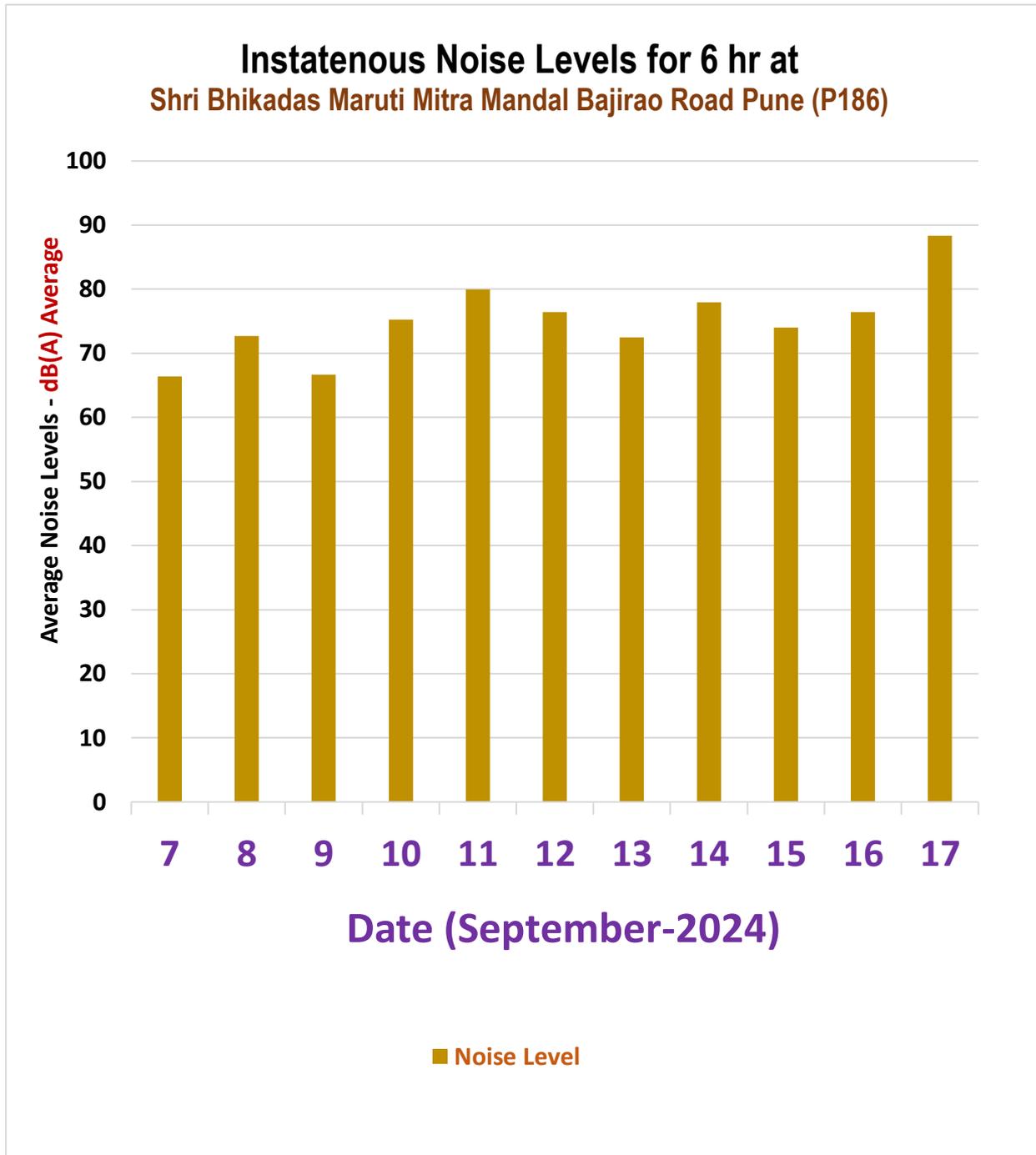


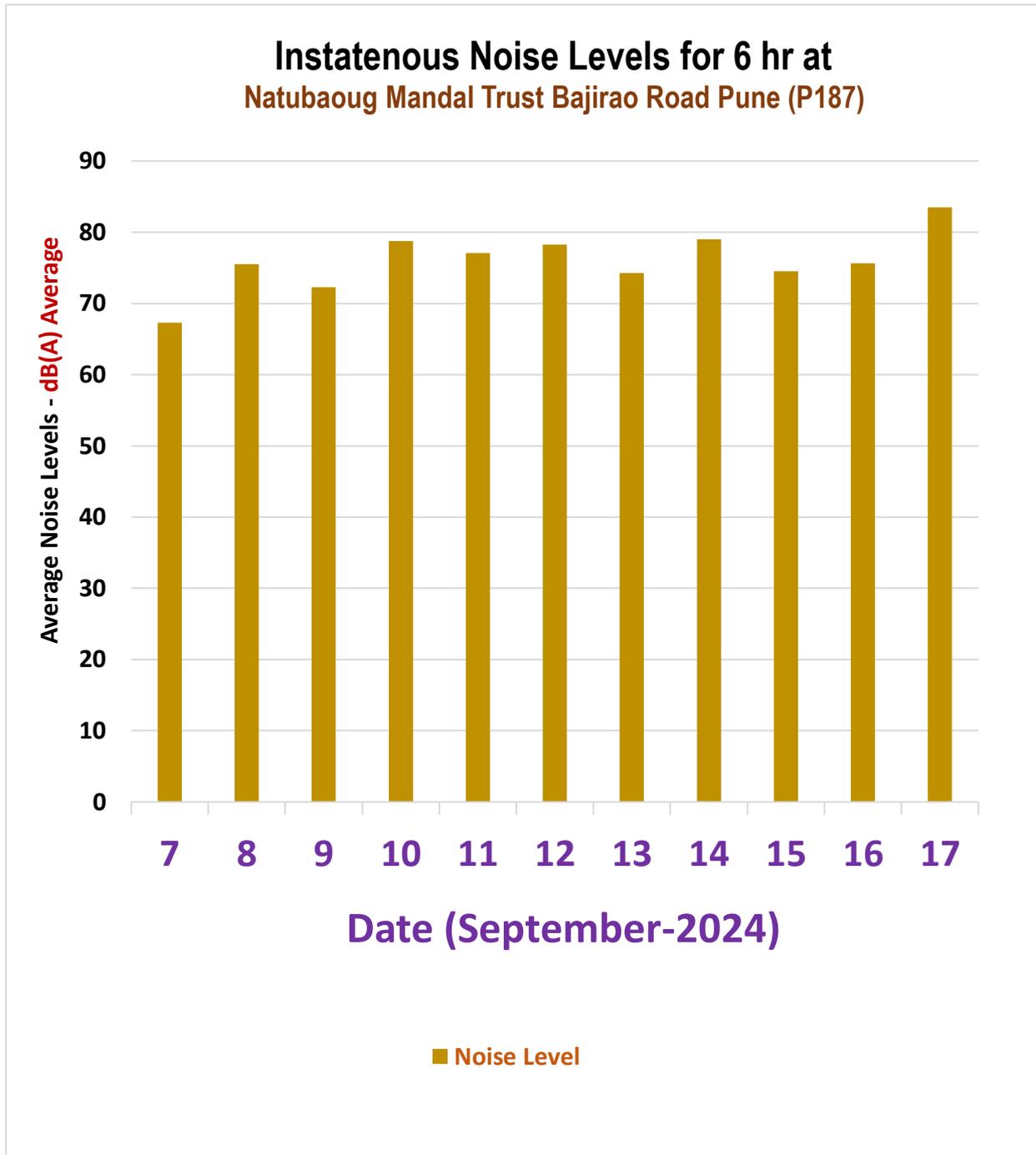


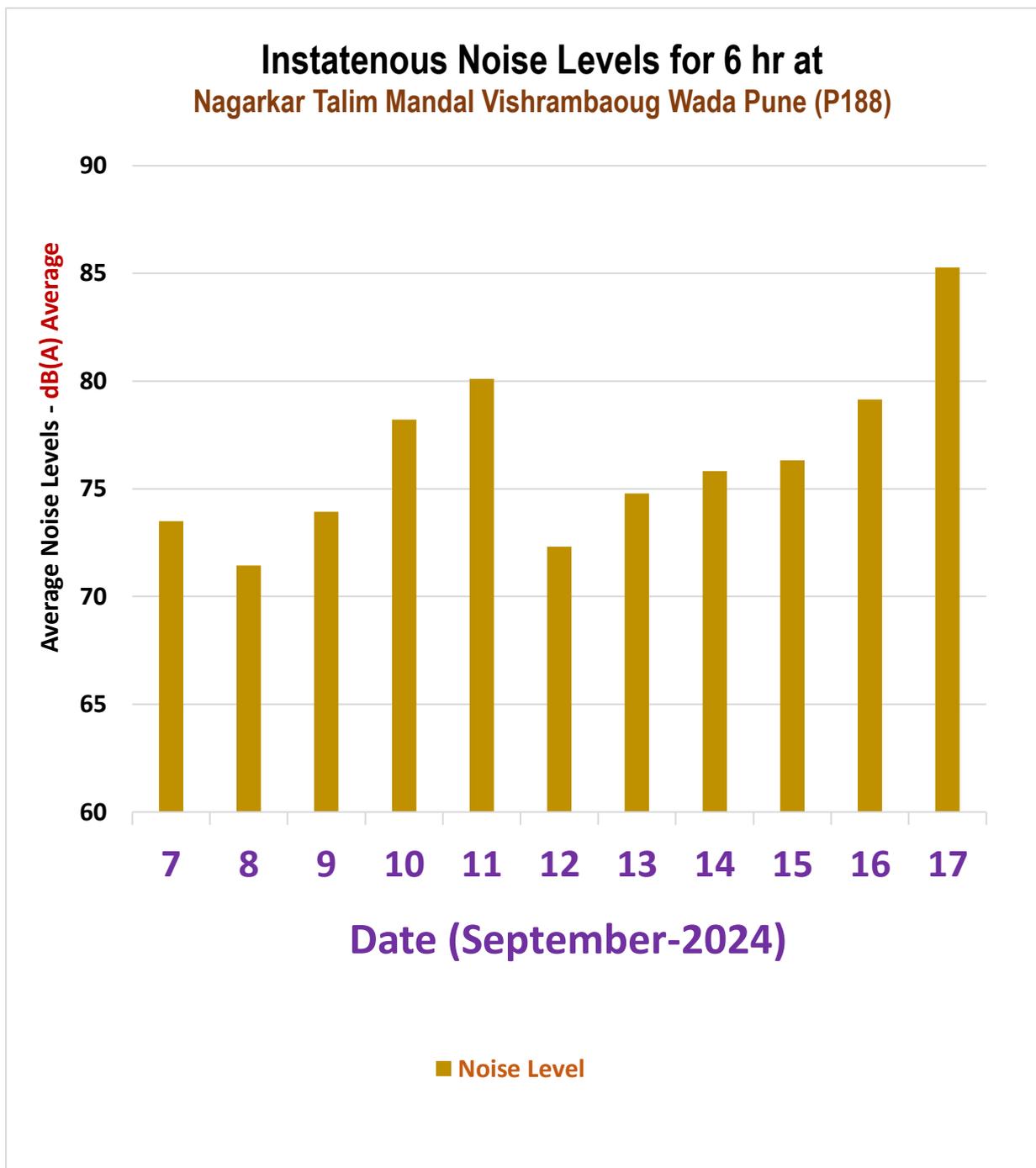


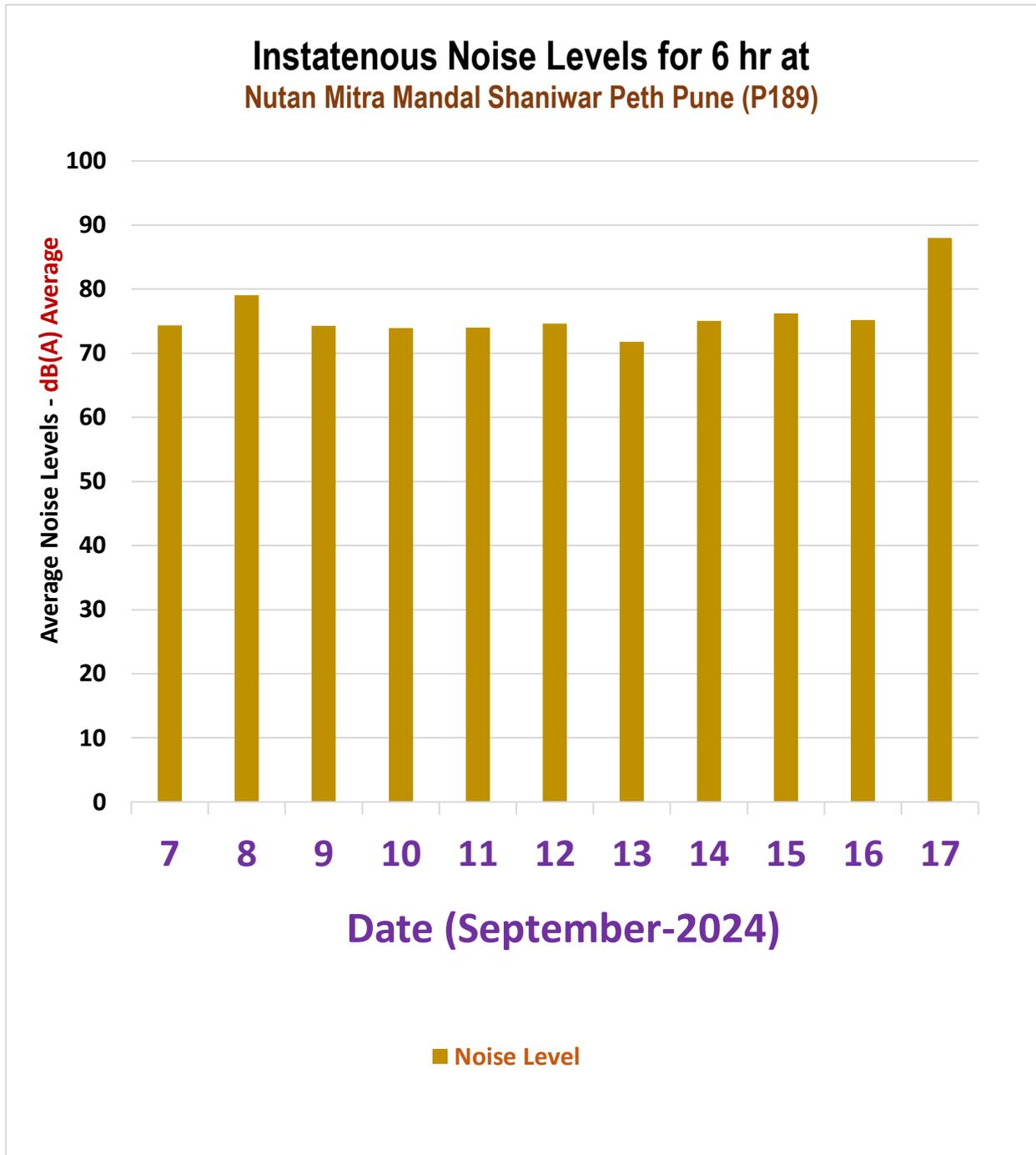


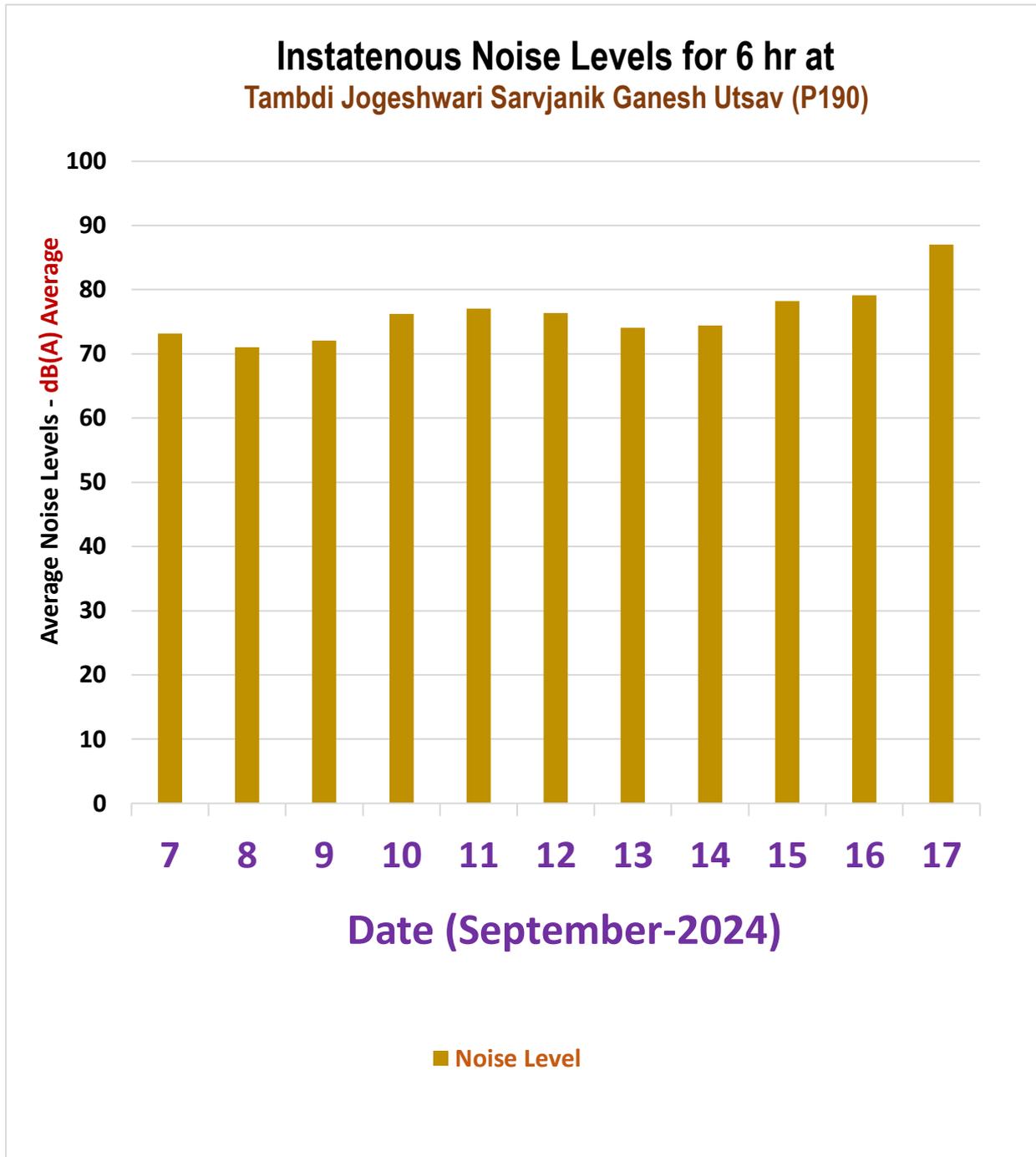


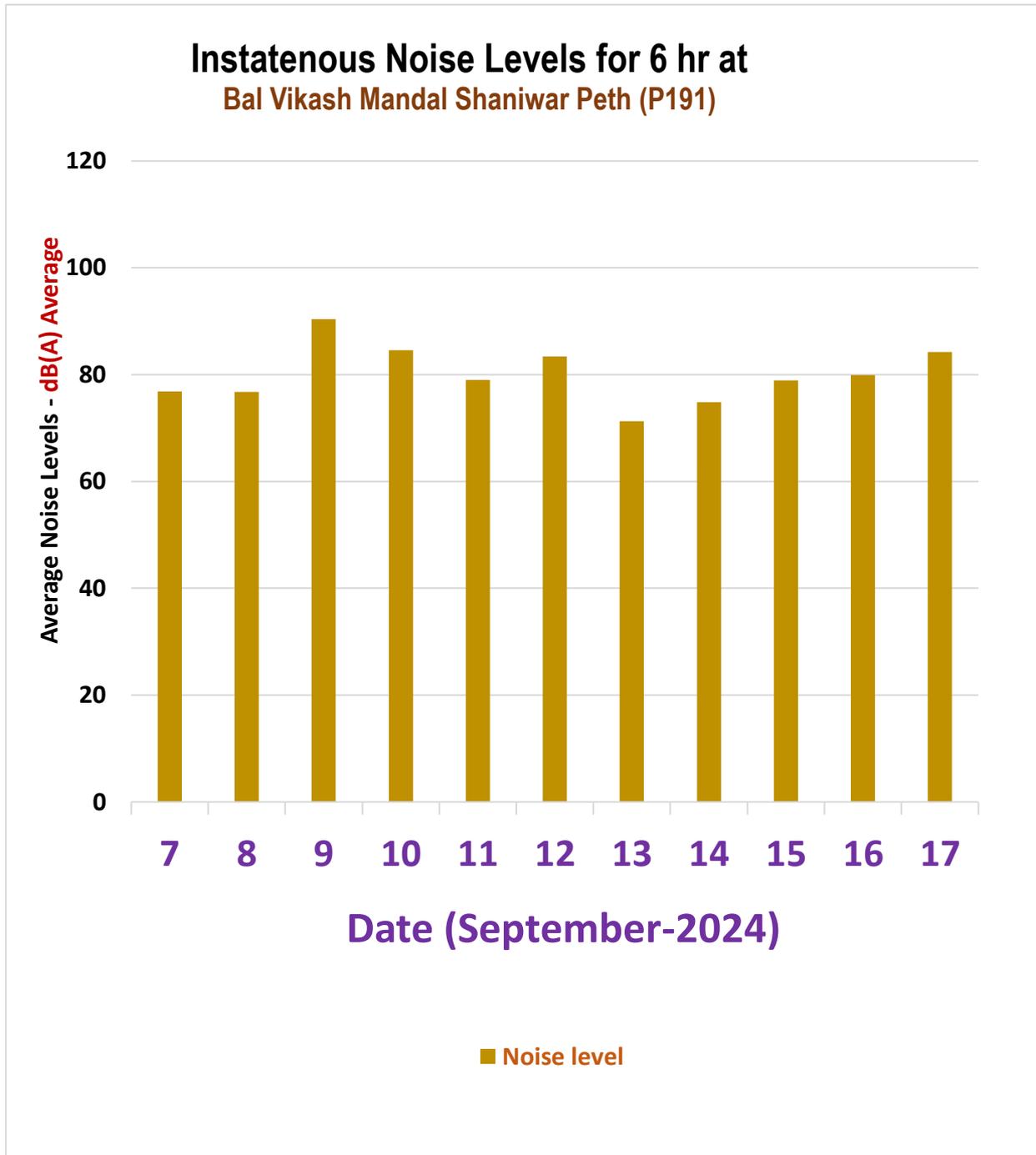


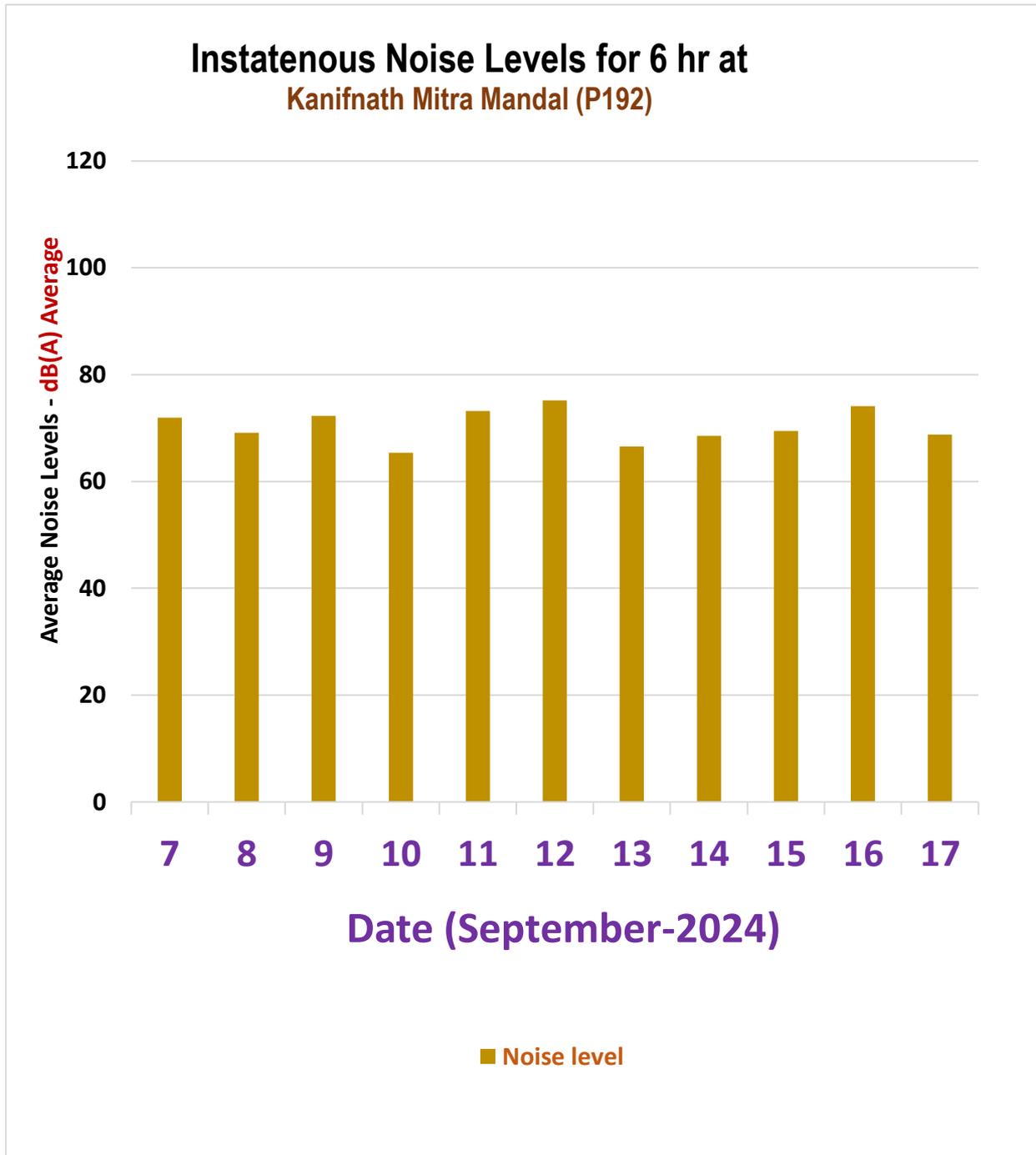


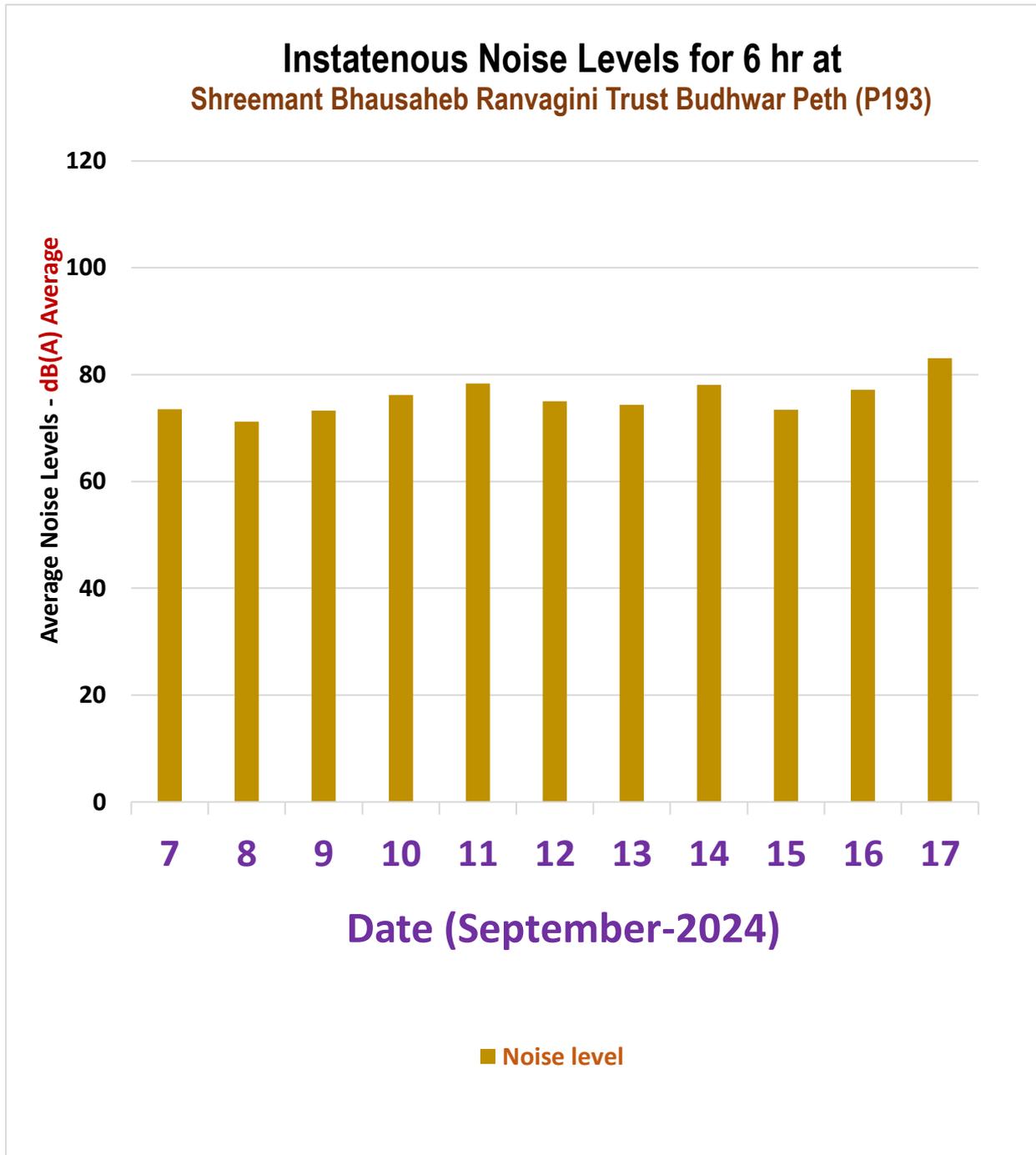


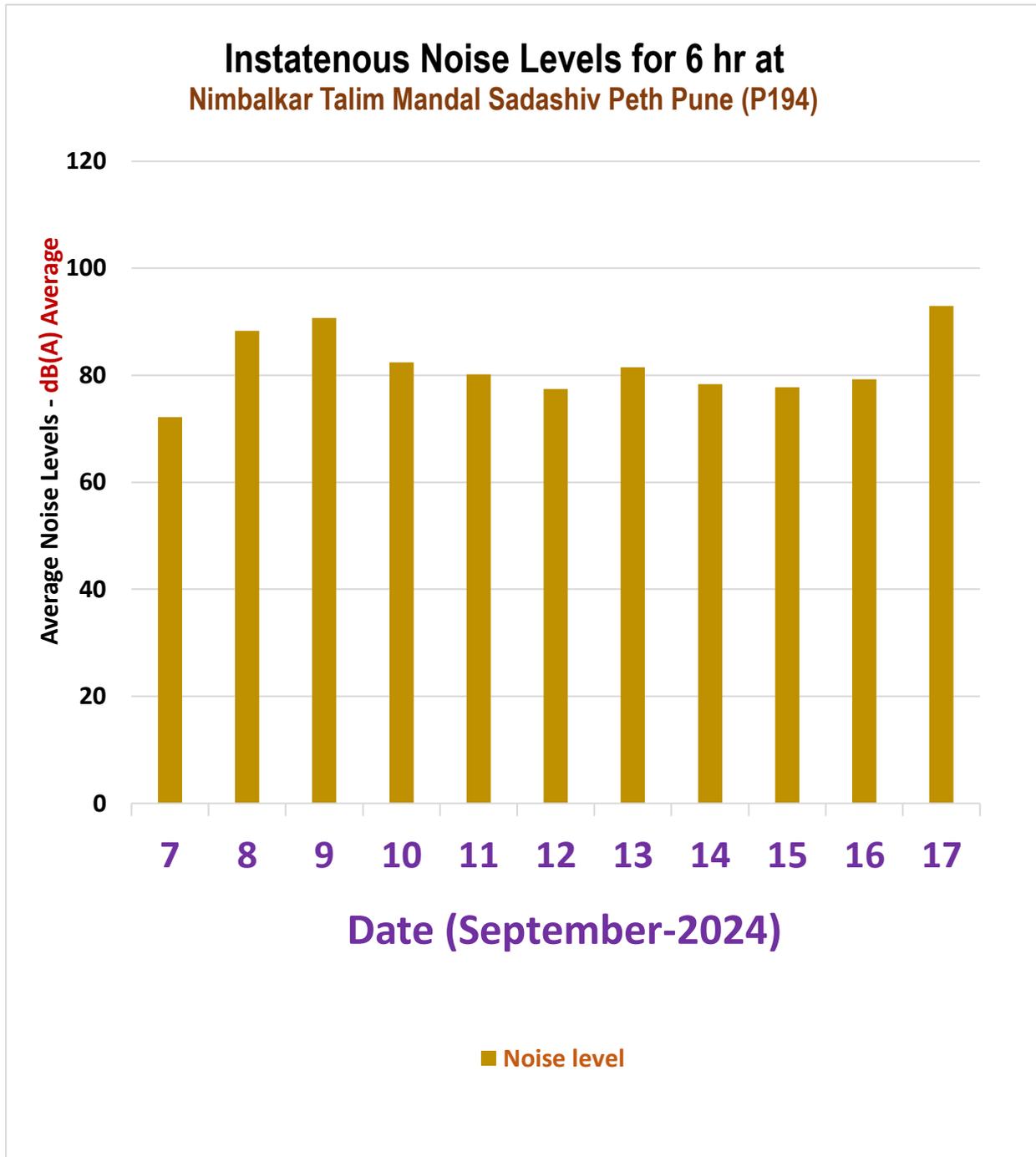


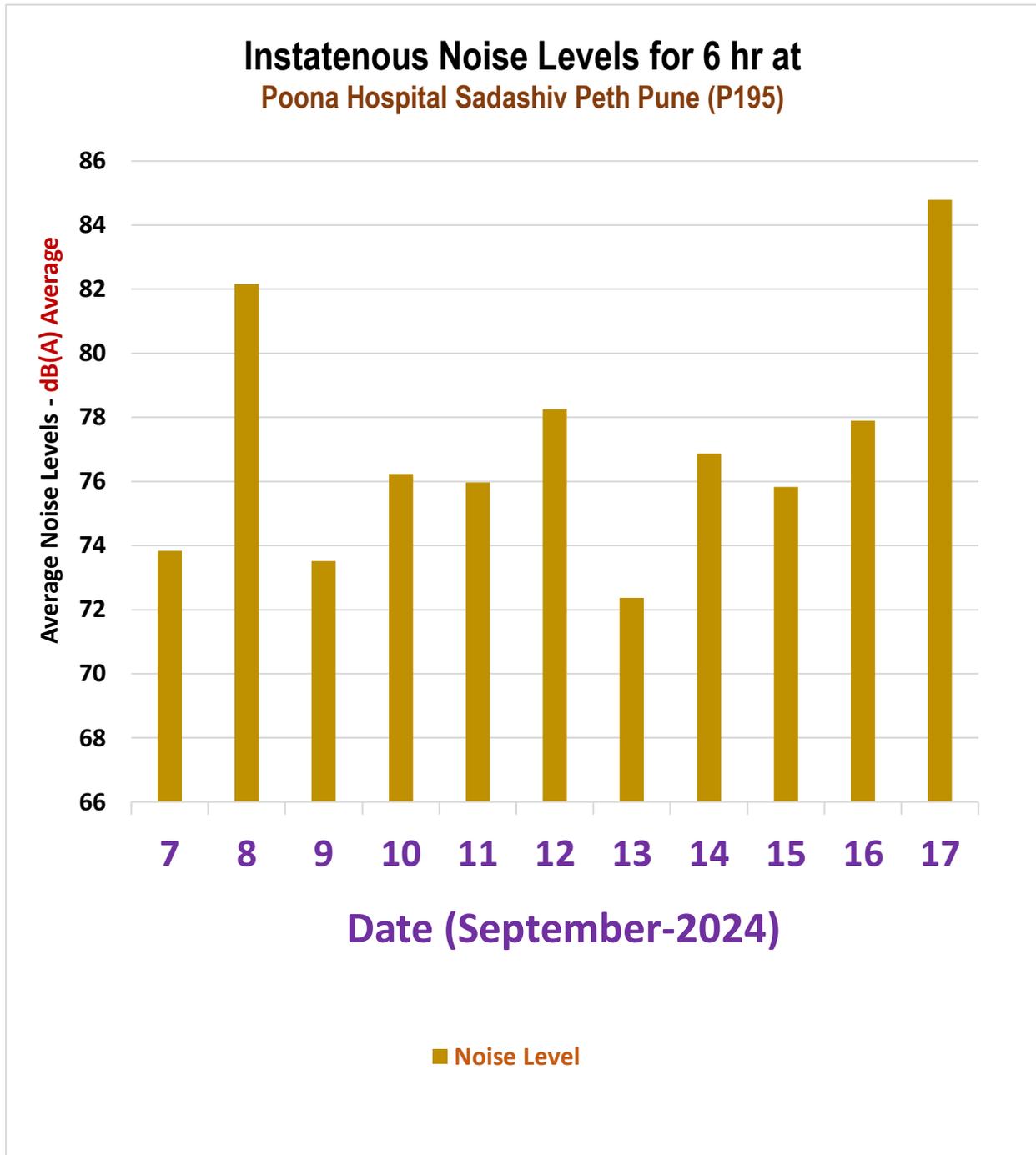


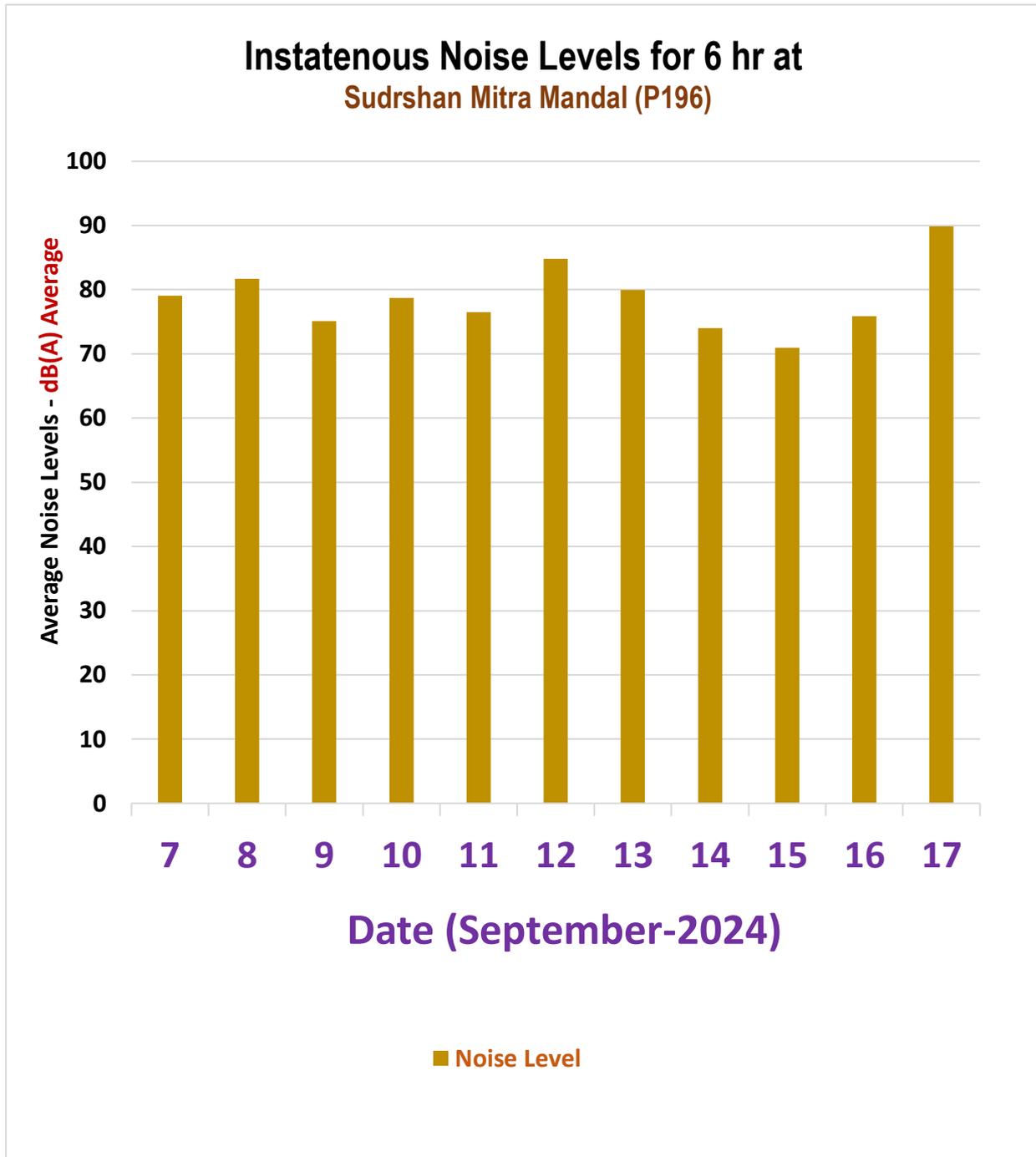


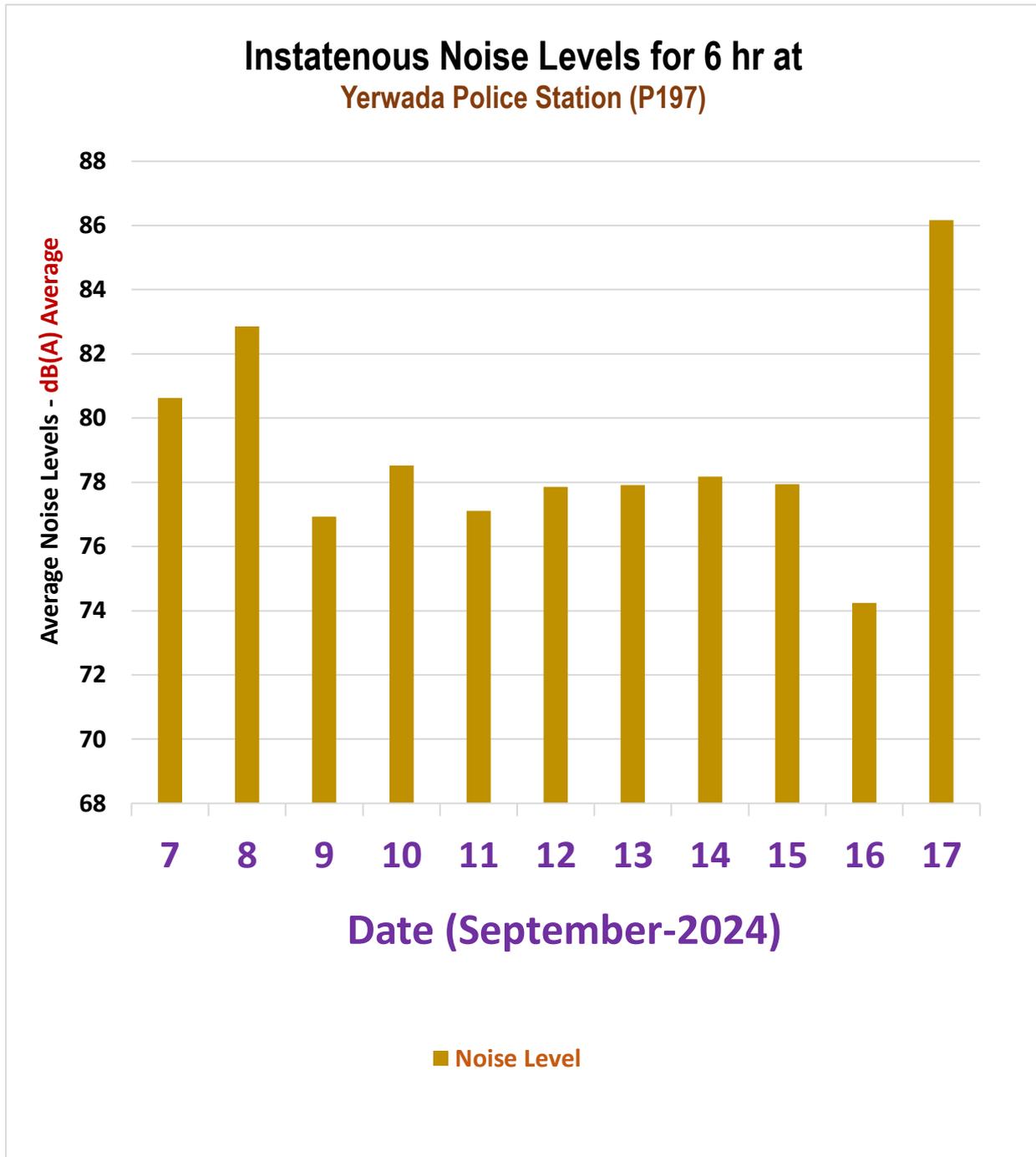


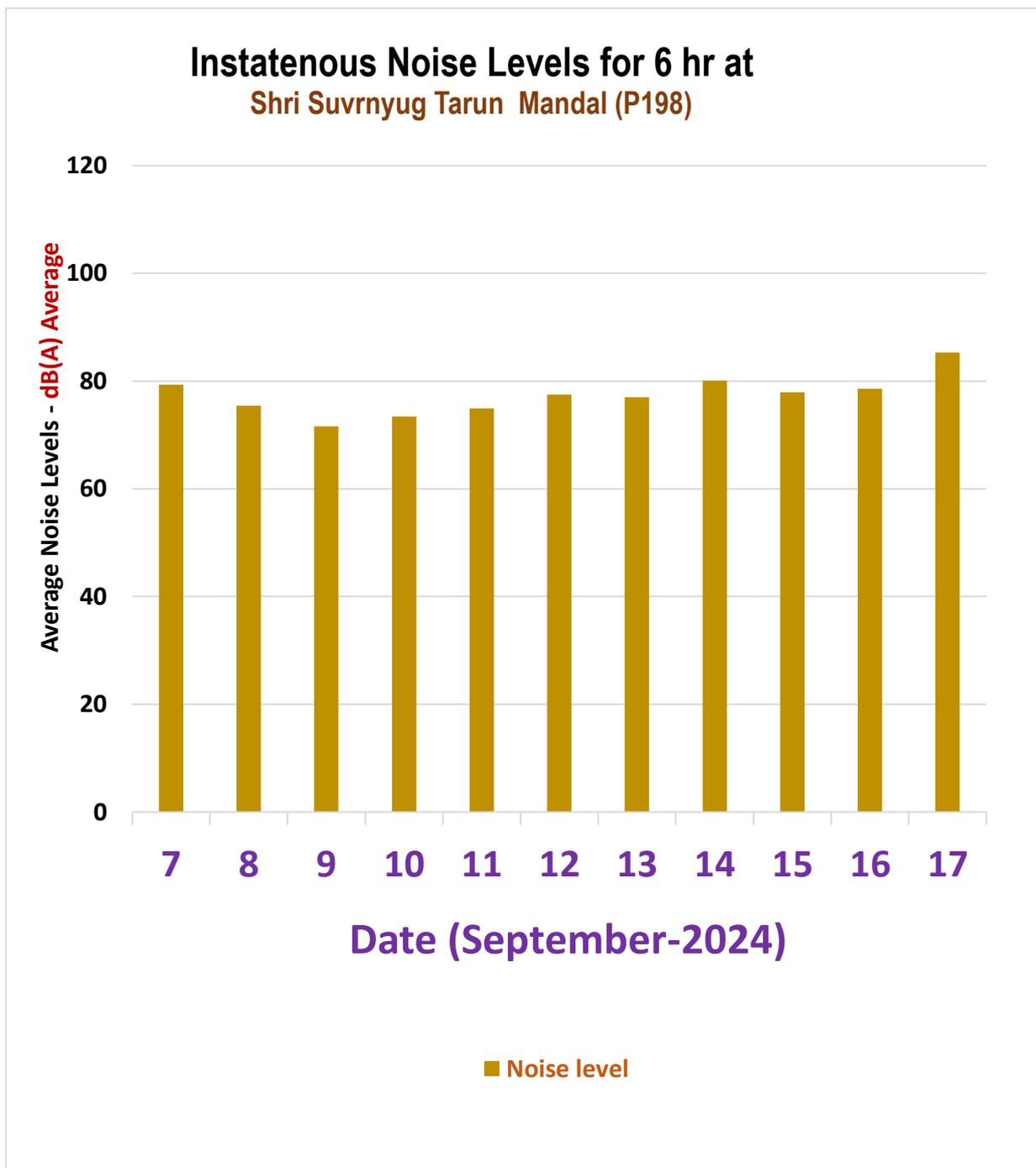


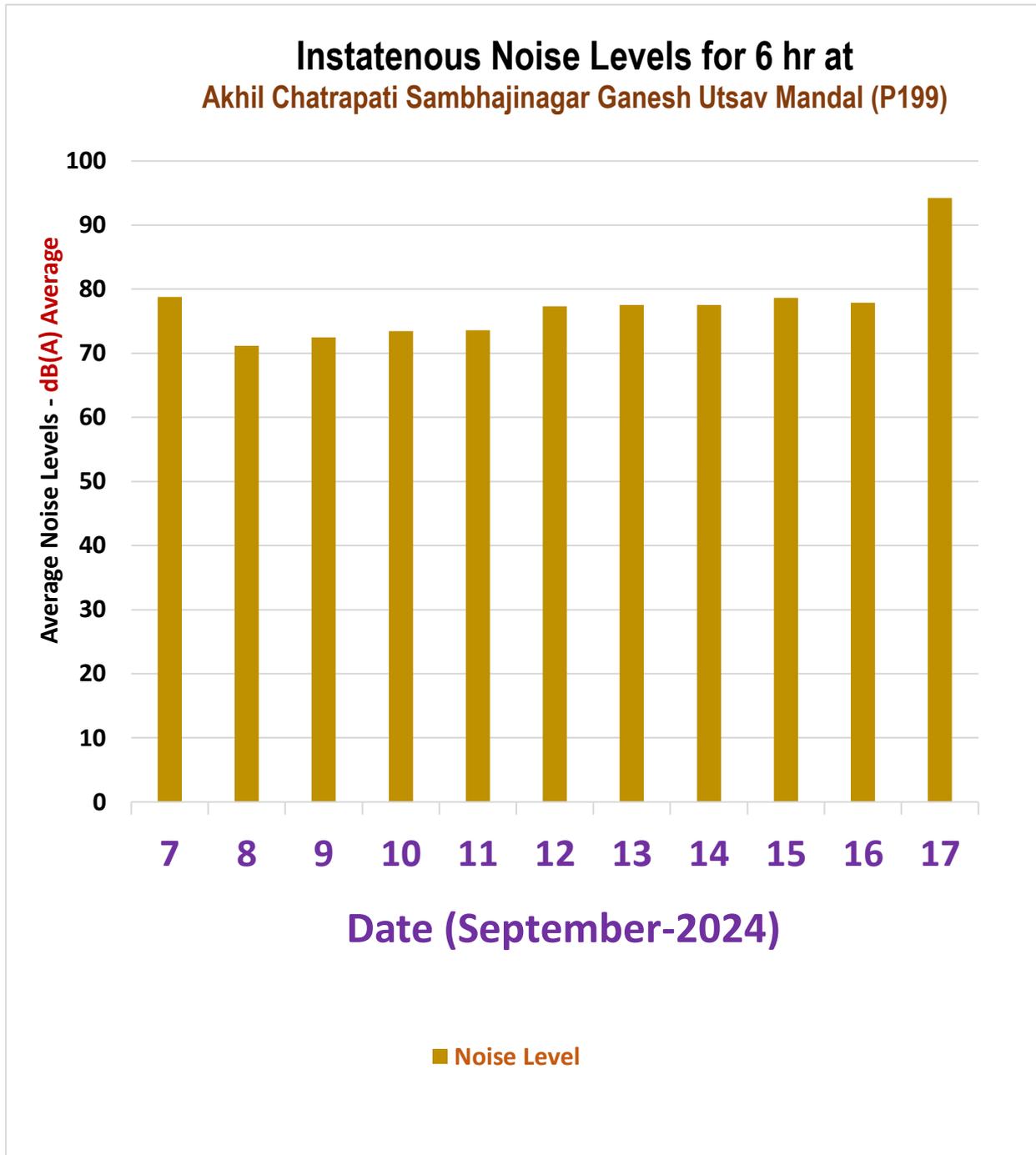


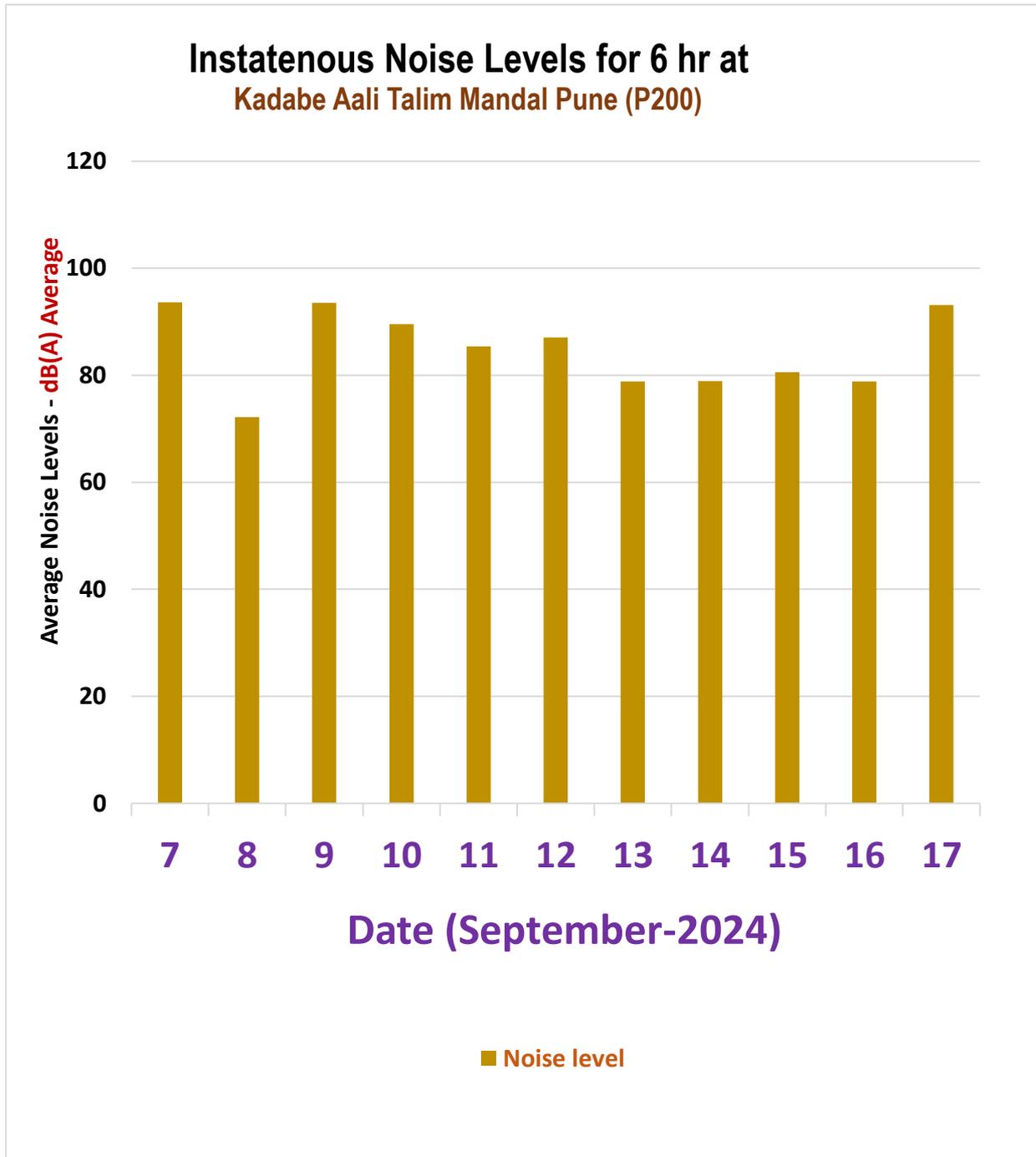




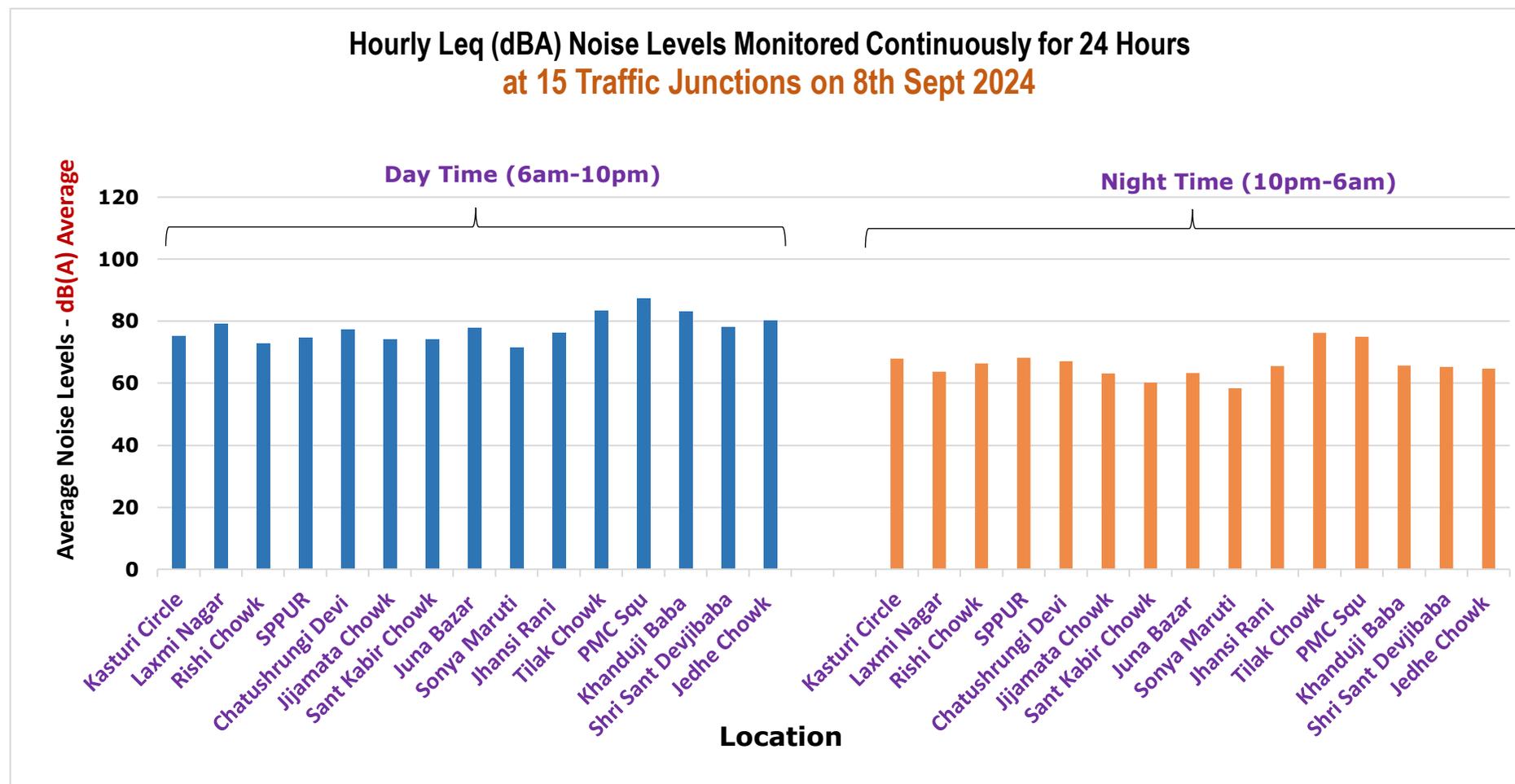


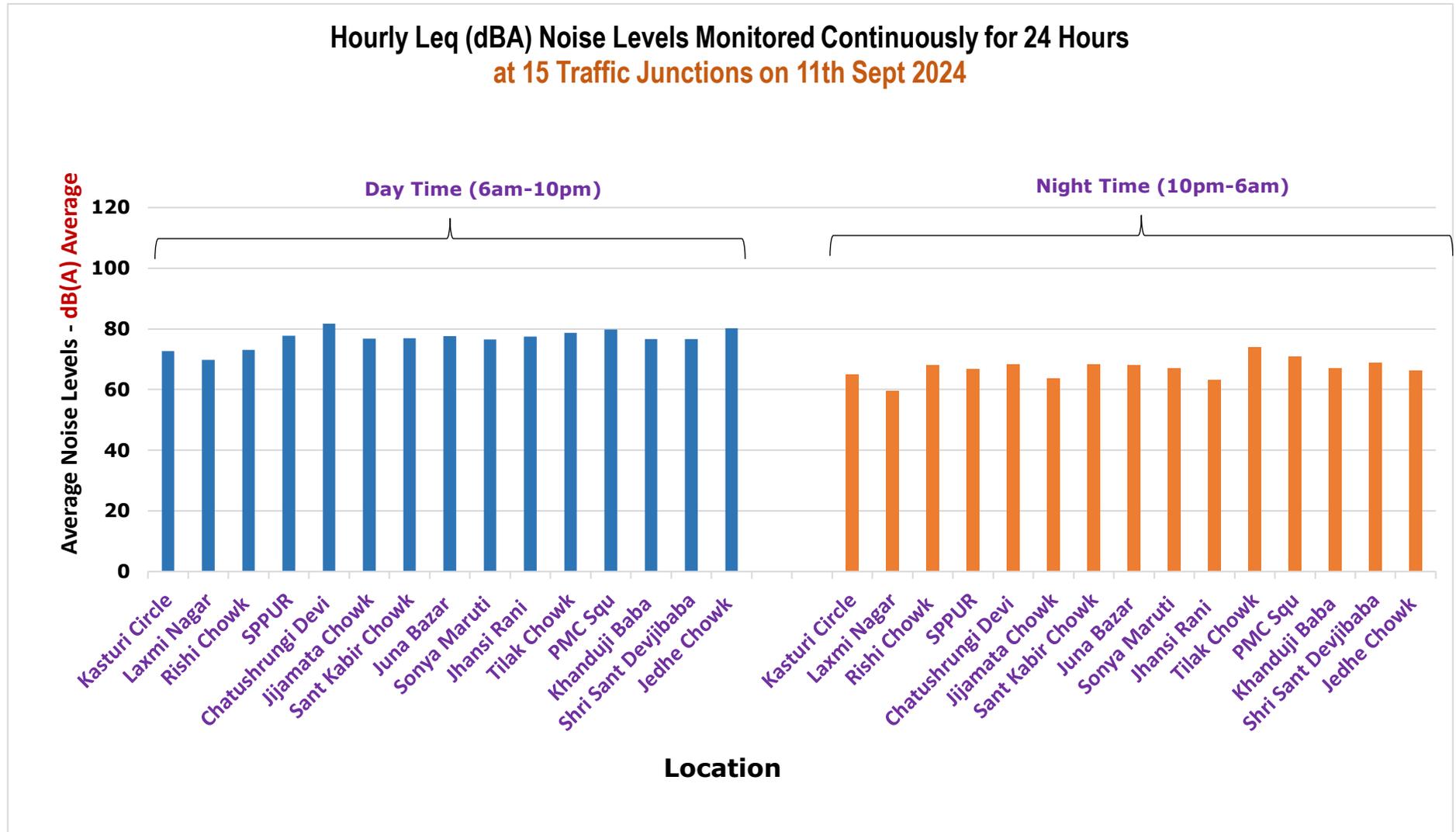




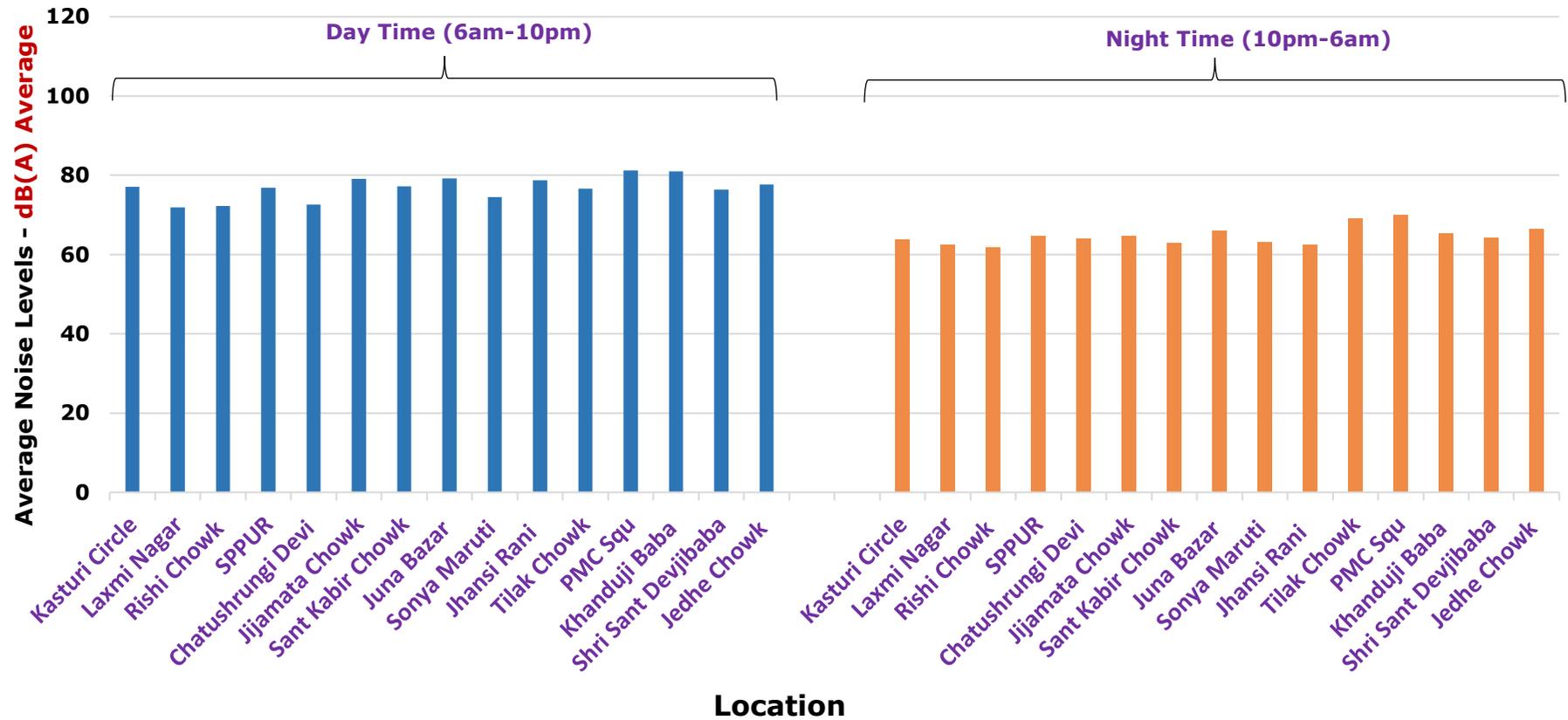


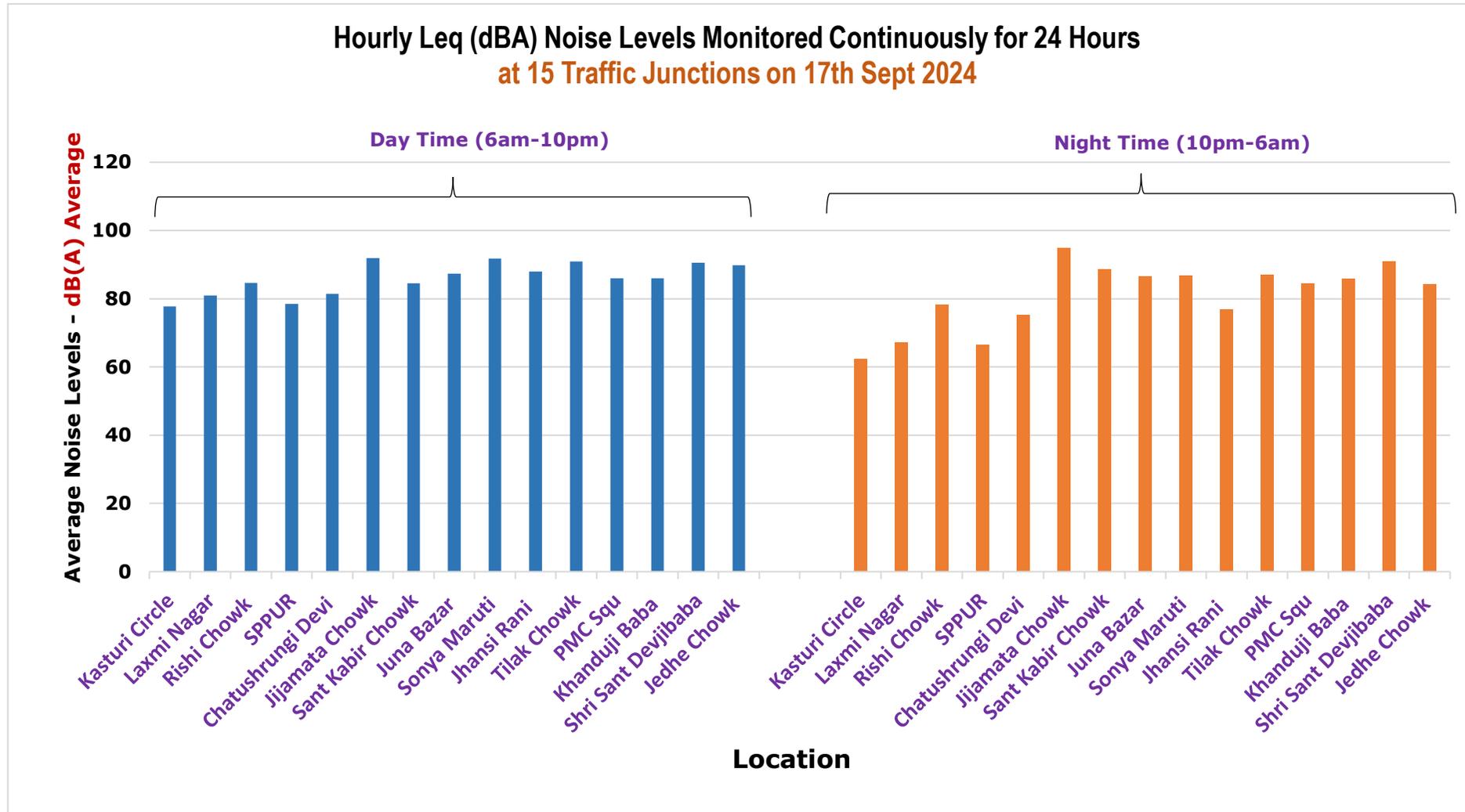
Below are the Graphical Representation of 24hr (day and night time) Average (Leq) Noise level at 15 Traffic junctions of Pune City





Hourly Leq (dBA) Noise Levels Monitored Continuously for 24 Hours at 15 Traffic Junctions on 13th Sept 2024





6 CONCLUSIONS

The study conducted during the 2024 Ganapati festival in Pune city involved systematic noise level monitoring across 200 pandals and 15 traffic junctions, revealing critical insights into urban noise pollution during large-scale public events. Measurements taken on September 8th indicated noise levels ranging from 66.7 dB to 94.0 dB. On September 11th, levels fluctuated between 70.5 dB and 91.9 dB, and on September 13th, noise levels varied between 68.6 dB and 93.4 dB. However, the most significant elevation in noise occurred on September 17th, a key visarjan (immersion) day, when levels escalated to a maximum of 99.8 dB, with a minimum of 66.4 dB.

This increase correlates with the extensive use of traditional instruments such as dhols, combined with loud music, which were prevalent during the processions. These figures highlight a clear pattern of noise amplification on visarjan days, underscoring the difficulties of maintaining noise levels within acceptable limits despite regulatory efforts.

In addition, a 24-hour noise monitoring campaign was conducted at 15 traffic junctions, recording noise levels during both daytime (06:00 to 21:00) and nighttime (21:00 to 06:00). Daytime monitoring revealed that the highest noise level occurred at Jijamata Chowk on September 17th, where readings peaked at 91.8 dB. The lowest daytime level was recorded at Rishi Chowk on September 13th, where the noise level dropped to 72.2 dB. At night, the highest noise level was again observed at Jijamata Chowk on September 17th, peaking at 94.9 dB, while the lowest nighttime reading was recorded at Laxmi Nagar on September 11th, at 59.4 dB.

The data indicate that both day and night noise levels were significantly elevated on September 17th, which coincided with immersion day activities. These elevated noise levels, especially those exceeding 90 dB, present a potential risk to public health, as prolonged exposure to such levels can lead to auditory damage and increased stress levels.

Furthermore, the contribution of modified vehicles lacking RTO approvals, with their high-powered engines, exacerbated the noise pollution during the festival, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of regulations concerning vehicular modifications.

In conclusion, these findings underscore the pressing need for enhanced regulatory measures and a broader scope of study to mitigate noise pollution

during large-scale public events. The potential health risks associated with prolonged exposure to elevated noise levels demand immediate attention and action.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS & SUGGESTIONS

1) Awareness

- a) **Public Campaigns:** Launch extensive public awareness campaigns through various media, including films, billboards, digital displays, and print materials, to educate the public on the impacts of noise pollution, especially during large-scale events like the Ganesh Festival.
- b) **Community Engagement:** Foster community involvement by organizing workshops and forums that allow residents and stakeholders to discuss noise pollution issues and potential solutions collaboratively.

2) Source Control

A. Vehicular Noise Reduction

- a) **Regulate Modified Vehicles:** Implement stricter oversight and enforcement measures regarding the use of modified vehicles during the festival. Ensure all vehicles adhere to established noise standards and possess the necessary approvals from the Regional Transport Office (RTO). Increased inspections and penalties for non-compliance should be considered to mitigate the contribution of high-powered engines and sound systems to overall noise pollution.
- b) **Honk Control Technology:** Develop and implement a device that automatically reduces honking intensity based on vehicle speed, addressing the prevalent issue of honking at traffic junctions.
- c) **Noise ATMs:** Install a sensor-based system in vehicles that limits honking frequency, with violations reported to the traffic department via a notification system.
- d) **Promote Electric Vehicles:** Encourage the use of electric vehicles during the festival period by providing incentives or designated parking areas, as they contribute significantly less noise pollution compared to traditional combustion-engine vehicles.

B. Monitoring and Control

- a) **Continuous Noise Monitoring:** Establish a robust framework for continuous noise monitoring during the Ganesh Festival, utilizing a combination of fixed and mobile sound level meters across all 200 pandals and 15 key traffic junctions to capture real-time data on noise levels.

- b) **Hotspot Identification:** Identify noise hotspots during the festival and support long-term research initiatives to study the impacts of noise pollution on public health and the environment, informing future policies and regulations.
- c) **Guidelines for Pandal Organizers:** Develop and disseminate clear guidelines for pandal organizers regarding permissible noise levels, sound amplification equipment, and timing restrictions, ensuring alignment with the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.
- d) **Quiet Zones Designation:** Identify and designate specific quiet zones around sensitive areas such as hospitals, schools, and residential neighborhoods, implementing stricter noise limits in these zones during the festival.
- e) **Temporary Traffic Management:** Implement temporary traffic management strategies to alleviate congestion at critical junctions during festival peak times, which can reduce honking and improve overall noise levels.

3) Festival Management

- a) **Control of Noise-Producing Activities:** Enforce regulations banning high-noise sources, such as firecrackers and live band performances, after a specified time during festival activities, especially on immersion days.
- b) **Training for Pandal Organizers:** Provide training sessions for pandal organizers on best practices for managing noise levels during the festival, including the use of sound level monitoring equipment and adherence to guidelines.

4) Post-Festival Evaluations

- a) **Evaluation of Noise Management Strategies:** Conduct post-festival evaluations to assess the effectiveness of noise management strategies implemented during the Ganesh Festival and gather feedback from participants and local residents. Use these insights to improve future monitoring and regulatory efforts.
- b) **Feedback Mechanism:** Establish a feedback mechanism for the public to report their experiences related to noise pollution during the festival, which can be analyzed for future improvements.
- c)

5) Capacity Building

- a) **Training for Enforcement Agencies:** Increase the capacity and training of enforcement agencies to ensure adherence to noise regulations during festivals, which may include regular patrols and the issuance of fines for non-compliance.
- b) **Collaboration with Local Organizations:** Collaborate with local NGOs and community organizations to leverage their expertise and resources in noise management and community engagement.

6) Long-term Strategies

- a) **Research Initiatives:** Support long-term research initiatives that focus on the cumulative effects of noise pollution on public health and quality of life, particularly in urban settings.
- b) **Infrastructure Improvements:** Invest in urban planning that incorporates noise-reducing infrastructure, such as sound barriers and noise-absorbing road materials, especially in high-density areas prone to festival activities.
- c) **Incorporate Noise Control in Urban Planning:** Ensure that future urban development plans consider noise pollution as a significant environmental factor, promoting mixed-use developments that minimize conflicts between noisy activities and residential areas.

By implementing these comprehensive recommendations, we can work towards effectively managing noise pollution during the Ganesh Festival, enhancing public health and community satisfaction while preserving cultural traditions.

ON-SITE GLIMPSES OF MONITORING



Dr. Avinash Dhakane (IAS), Member Secretary, MPCB, and Shri Jaganatha Salunke, RO, MPCB at Chaturshringi– 8th Sep 2024



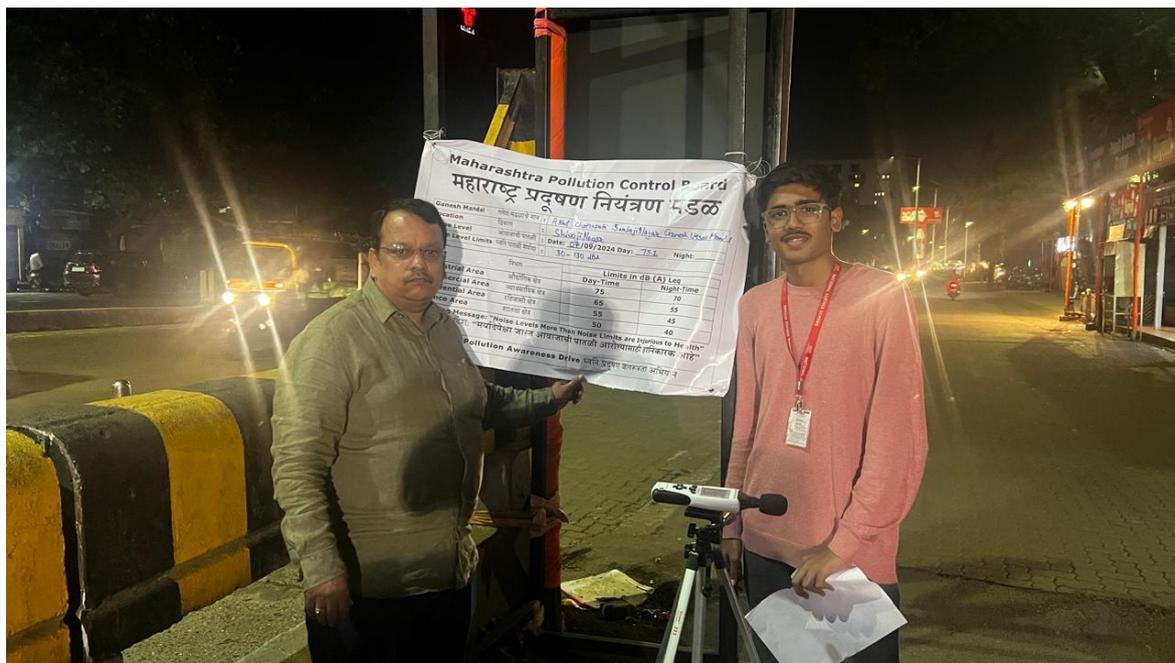
Dr. Avinash Dhakane (IAS), Member Secretary, MPCB along with Monitoring Team at Samasta Gavkari Mandal, Kothrud – 8th Sep 2024



Dr. V. M. Motghare, JD (Air) MPCB, along with Monitoring Team at Rishi Chowk, Wakad Road, Aundh - – 8th Sep 2024



Dr. V. M. Motghare, JD (Air) MPCB, and Shri Suryakant Shinde, FO along with Volunteers at Savitri Phule University Road – 8th Sep 2024



Shri Kartik Langote, SRO, MPCB along with Volunteer at Akhil Chatrapati Shivaji Nagar Ganesh Utsav Mandal – 7th Sep 2024



Shri Kartik Langote, SRO, MPCB along with Volunteer at Aundh – 17th Sep 2024



**Shri Jaganatha Salunke, RO & Shri Kartik Langote, SRO
along with Police officers and Shri Badhe, Corporator at Balgandharv –
7th Sep 2024**



**Shri Jaganatha Salunke, RO and Shri Kartik Langote, SRO, along with
Shri Badhe, Corporator and Volunteers at Balgandharv -7th Sep 2024**



Mr. Chandrashekar Sawant, PSI Shivajinagar along with Shri Badhe, Corporate and Volunteer –7th Sep 2024



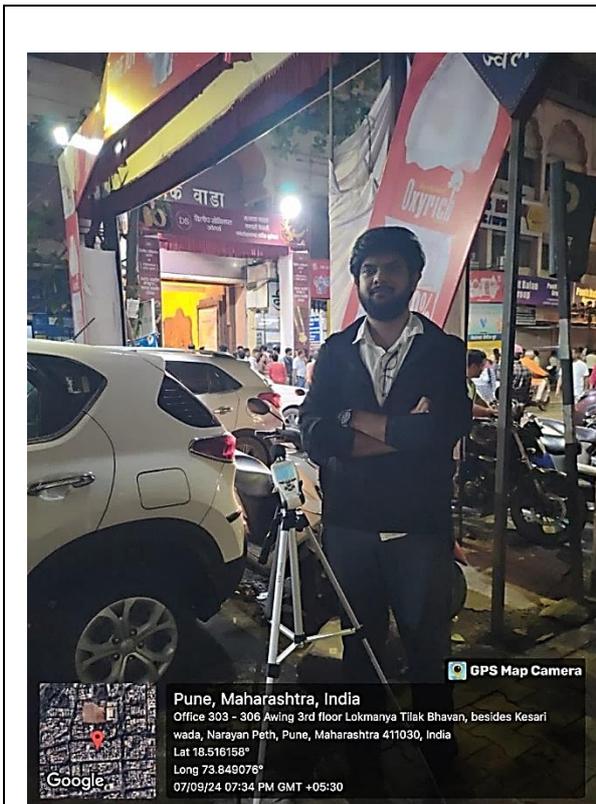
Shri Kartik Langote, SRO, along with Volunteer at – Ch. Shivaji Maharaj Putla Tarun Mandal, Shivaji Nagar-07th Sep 2024



Dr. Avinash Dhakane Ji, Member Secretary and Shri Jaganatha Salunke, RO Team at Pune University location. -8th Sep 2024



Shri B. M. Kukade, SRO, MPCB along with Volunteer at Kothrud-09th Sep 2024



Pune-Mati Ganpati



Pune- Hanuman Vayam Mandal Trust



Pune- Sarvodaya Mitra Mandal Chandan Nagar



Pune- Akhil Mitra Mandal Bibewadi



Pune-Munjobacha Bole Tarun Mandal



Pune- Jai Hanuman Mitra Mandal Swargate



Pune-Achanak Mitra Mandal Sahakarnagar



Pune-Mahatma Gandhi Tarun Mandal Sahakarnagar



Pune-Balveer Mitra Mandal Swargate



Pune-Khadak Sarwajanik Ganeshustav Mandal Swargate



Pune-Sanjivani Mitra Mandal Sahakarnagar



Pune-Pandav Pratap Mitra Mandal Swargate

लोकसत्ता
लोकसत्ता पुणे
 १८ मंगळवार, १० सप्टेंबर २०२४

गणेशोत्सवात ध्वनिप्रदूषणाचाच 'आव्वाज'!

कमाल मर्यादा पातळीचा सर्वत्र भंग;
 शहरात दोनशे मंडळांच्या ठिकाणी तपासणी

संजय जाधव, लोकसत्ता
पुणे : गणेशोत्सवाच्या पहिल्या दोन दिवसांत शहरात सर्वच ठिकाणी आव्वाजाच्या पातळीने ध्वनिप्रदूषणाची कमाल मर्यादा ओलांडण्याची धक्कादायक बातमी समोर आली आहे. महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळाकडून मोठ्याप्रमाणात आलेल्या ध्वनिपातळीतून हे स्पष्ट झाले आहे.

आवाजाची मर्यादा पातळी	
विभाग	दिवसा रात्री
औद्योगिक	७५ ७०
व्यावसायिक	६५ ५५
निवासी	५५ ४५
शांतता क्षेत्र	५० ४०

महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळाकडून आवाजाची पातळी तपासली जात आहे. ही पातळी जास्त असल्यास पोलीसांनी सभके राबवून अशा ठिकाणांवर जाऊन ध्वनिप्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळाकडून तक्रारी दाखवण्याची सूचना देण्यात आली आहे. कोल-राष्ट्रा प्रकल्प ३० पेक्षा जास्त वादक नसताने, या ठिकाणी अमलबजावणी पोलीसांकडे सोपविण्यात आली आहे.

यंत्रणा गणेशोत्सवात ध्वनिप्रदूषणावर नियंत्रण ठेवण्याचे निर्देश राष्ट्रीय हरित लाव्याने दिले आहेत. त्यानुसार महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळाकडून शहरातील २०० गणेश मंडळांच्या ठिकाणी ध्वनिप्रदूषणाची पातळी मोजली जात आहे. हे काम एका खासगी संस्थेला देण्यात आले आहे. या संस्थेने राष्ट्रीय सेवा योजनेतील विद्यार्थ्यांच्या साहाय्याने ध्वनिप्रदूषण पातळी मोजण्यास सुरुवात केली आहे. दररोज सायंकाळी ६ ते रात्री १२ वाजेपर्यंत ही पातळी मोजली जाते. ध्वनिप्रदूषणाची कमाल मर्यादा पातळी दिवशी ७५, रात्रीसाल आणि रात्री ७० डेसिबलपर्यंत आहे. शहरात सर्वच ठिकाणी आवाजाची पातळी ७५ ते ८५ डेसिबलपर्यंत नोंदविण्यात आली आहे. यामुळे

गणेशोत्सवाच्या काळात शहरभर ध्वनिप्रदूषण होत असल्याची बात उघडकीस आली आहे. चालूया ध्वनिप्रदूषणाची समस्या दिवसेंदिवस गंभीर स्वरूप धारण करीत असल्याच्या पारबंभूतीवर डॉ. कल्याणी भोंडके यांनी सारवाकडे याचिका दाखल केली होती. यात राज्य सरकार, जिल्हाधिकारी, महाराष्ट्र प्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळ, पुणे महापालिका आणि पुणे पोलीसांना प्रतिकार करण्यात आले होते.

परवापासून विसर्जन मिरवणुकीपर्यंत 'ध्वनीसवलत'

सहा दिवस रात्री १२ पर्यंत ध्वनिक्षेपक लावण्यास परवानगी

लोकसत्ता प्रतिनिधी
पुणे : यंदा गणेशोत्सवात सहा दिवस रात्री बारा वाजेपर्यंत ध्वनिक्षेपक वापरण्यास परवानगी देण्यात आली आहे. दर वर्षी ही परवानगी पाच दिवसांसाठी देण्यात येते. थंडी त्यामध्ये एक दिवस वाढविण्यात आला आहे. त्यानुसार येथे १२ ते १५ सप्टेंबर या काळासाठी रात्री बारा वाजेपर्यंत ध्वनिक्षेपक वापरण्यास परवानगी असेल. ध्वनिक्षेपक वापरण्यात सभाभूय, मेजवानी कक्ष यासारख्या बंद जागांखेरीज इतर ठिकाणी जिल्हाच्या निकडानुसार वर्षातील १५ दिवस निश्चित करून सवाळी सहा ते रात्री बारा वाजेपर्यंत सवलत जाहीर करण्याचे अधिकार जिल्हाधिकार्यांना देण्यात आले आहेत. त्यानुसार, जिल्हाधिकारी डॉ. सुहास दिवसे यांनी पोलीस विभागासह संबंधित यंत्रणांची बैठक घेऊन उत्सव

परवानगी काही अटीवर...
 सवाळी सहा ते रात्री बारा वाजेपर्यंत ध्वनीची व्हिल मर्यादा राखून ध्वनिक्षेपक यंत्रणा वापरण्यास, मर्यादा विहित करून परवानगी देण्यात आली आहे. ध्वनिप्रदूषण नियंत्रण मंडळाने २०१७ मधील नियम तीन, घार आणि ध्वनिप्रदूषण (नियंत्रण व नियंत्रण) सुधारित नियम २०१७ च्या नियम पाच उपनियम (तीन) अन्वयांत घटनावाच्य आहे. विभागधिकार (प्लॅनिंग) ठरवलेल्या मर्यादेपेक्षा जास्त आवाज येऊ नये, ही सवलत शांतता क्षेत्रात लागू नसल्याने त्याची अमलबजावणी करण्याची जबाबदारी संबंधित सर्व यंत्रणांनी राहिल, असेही आदेशात नमूद करण्यात आले आहे.

कालावधी विचारात घेता, ध्वनिक्षेपक वापरण्यासाठी मर्यादा शिथिल केली आहे. त्यामुळे आता गणेशोत्सवात मुकुबा (१२ सप्टेंबर) ते मंगळवार (१७ सप्टेंबर) अशा सहा दिवसांसाठी ध्वनिक्षेपक रात्री बारा वाजेपर्यंत चालू ठेवण्यास परवानगी आहे. जिल्हाधिकार्यांना संपूर्ण जिल्हाभर रात्री १५ दिवस रात्री बारा वाजेपर्यंत ध्वनिक्षेपक वापरण्यास परवानगी देण्याचे अधिकार आहेत. त्यापैकी श्री विजयवंती, डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर जयंती, महाराष्ट्र दिन अशी प्रत्येकी तीन दिवस परवानगी देण्यात आली होती. आता गणेशोत्सवात सहा दिवस परवानगी देण्यात आली आहे. नवरात्रात दोन दिवस, दिवाळी एक दिवस, वर्षअखेरीस एक दिवस परवानगी असणार आहे. तर महत्त्वाच्या कार्यान्वयनांसाठी दोन दिवस राखून देण्यात आले असून, आवश्यकतेनुसार परवानगी देण्यात येईल, असेही आदेशात नमूद केले आहे.

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Newspaper Headlines of the Event

Hitting the right note: MPCB takes steps to control noise level during Ganeshotsav

Collaborative efforts with Ganesh mandals lead to reduced sound levels and peaceful festive atmosphere

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Following the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Western Zone Bench, the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) has initiated a campaign to monitor and control sound levels during the Ganeshotsav as per the Noise Pollution Rules, 2000. A contract has been awarded to a Nashik-based company to carry out the necessary monitoring. On the first day of Ganeshotsav, starting Saturday at 6 pm, the MPCB began measuring noise pollution levels at 132 locations across Maharashtra. In Pune, monitoring was conducted at 236 sites near pandals. The primary aim was to raise public awareness about noise pollution, achieve effective control, and avoid protracted legal disputes that often yield little result. MPCB member secretary Avinash Dhakane and joint director (air pollution control) Dr Vidyaadhar Motghare issued directives to all regional officers across Maharashtra. In Pune, regional officer Jagannath Salunkhe and sub-regional officer Karthik Langote provided on-site guidance



and monitored locations from 6 pm to 11 pm. They maintained continuous oversight through video calls, ensuring ongoing instructions, cooperation, and follow-up. In response to an order by the NGT following an application by Dr. Kalyani Mandke, the MPCB managed to set up noise monitoring at 250 locations within seven days. The monitoring process, carried out in collaboration with several colleges like DY Patil College and Fergusson College, used state-of-the-art equipment to record sound levels every second. The data was then processed to create graphs indicating peak sound levels, with the 85 dB(A) limit clearly marked. "Thanks to widespread support, there

were no incidents of conflict or bitter exchanges throughout the campaign. Ganeshotsav workers were highly enthusiastic and took a scientific approach to monitoring noise levels, willingly making adjustments to minimise sound," Dhakane said. "The campaign will continue in this manner for the coming week. The collective efforts of all involved serve as a model of how religious festivals can be celebrated with full compliance to laws and regulations, free from any bitterness or conflict," he said. "Notice boards were displayed at various locations to inform Ganesh Mandal workers about the recorded noise levels and to raise public awareness. Not a single board was torn

or defaced by activists. Instead, everyone attentively considered the recorded levels and made thoughtful adjustments to their speaker arrangements to reduce noise," said another official. "Ganeshotsav activists not only welcomed the MPCB officials but also honoured them. This positive reception from the Ganesh Mandals raises hopes for a more peaceful Ganeshotsav in Pune, with reduced noise pollution. Following the court's order, the prompt action by the MPCB, the environment department's positive response, and the proactive attitude of Ganesh mandals demonstrates a successful approach to managing noise pollution," said another official.

Newspaper Headlines of the Event

ANNEXURES

- 7.1 ANNEXURE I: Hourly Leq (200 pandals)
- 7.2 ANNEXURE II: Hourly Leq (15 traffic Junctions)
- 7.3 ANNEXURE III: Detailed list of Studied locations of 200 Pandals with an attachment of A3 size google location
- 7.4 ANNEXURE IV: Detailed list of Studied locations of 15 traffic Junctions with an attachment of A3 size google location
- 7.5 ANNEXURE V: Specifications of Sound Level Meter (SLM)
- 7.6 ANNEXURE VI: Sample Calibration Certificate
- 7.7 ANNEXURE VII: Protocol for Ambient Level Noise Monitoring – CPCB 2015
- 7.8 ANNEXURE VIII: The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 -MoEF Notification
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- 7.10 ANNEXURE IX: Warning Message-Sample Poster
- 7.11 ANNEXURE X: Sample Datasheet used to collect the Data of Ambient Noise Levels
- 7.12 ANNEXURE XI: Copy of Judgement of Hon'ble NGT
- 7.13 ANNEXURE XII: Copy of the Work Order issued by MPCB
