

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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Dated: 19th January 2026

PRESS RELEASE

CAQM reviews performance of DPCC/ SPCBs in NCR during periods of Stage-III and IV of GRAP; serious deficiencies and wide gaps flagged

NEW DELHI:

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has reviewed the Performance Report of the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) in NCR towards implementation of measures prescribed under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) during Stage-III and Stage-IV, as monitored on a daily basis by the GRAP Monitoring Control Room established by the Commission.

GRAP Monitoring Control Room of CAQM has been constantly monitoring and reviewing the status of implementation of the measures/ actions by agencies concerned in NCR towards abatement of air pollution. Specific actions have been stipulated under the Schedule of GRAP and agencies responsible for its implementation have also been identified in the Schedule of GRAP.

The observations of action taken by the respective agencies are being communicated to them respective agencies through daily updates and weekly emails. The review of actions taken during GRAP Stage-III and Stage-IV reveals serious deficiencies and wide gaps in implementation, with shortfalls ranging from 7% to 99.6% across key mandated actions. The GRAP Monitoring Control Room also observed high pendency of unresolved complaints, ranging from 47% to 100%, indicating weak enforcement and grievance redressal mechanisms.

During Stage-III of the extant GRAP (as on 02.01.2025), physical inspection of Construction and Demolition (C&D) sites of 500 sq.m. and above showed major gaps, with average shortfall of 87% in Delhi, 99.6% in Haryana (NCR), 84% in Rajasthan (NCR) and 96% in Uttar Pradesh (NCR) against the prescribed optimum requirements. Length of road mechanically swept (in Kms) also remained significantly below the required levels, with gaps of 69% in Delhi and Haryana (NCR) along with Rajasthan (NCR) recording gap of 31%, while Uttar Pradesh (NCR) marginally exceeded the requirement by 4%. Further, deployment of mechanical road sweeping machines (MRSMs) remained low with average gap of 59% in Delhi and 13% in Haryana (NCR), whereas Rajasthan (NCR) and Uttar Pradesh (NCR) exceeded the prescribed requirement by 93% and 76%, respectively.

Similarly, during Stage-IV of the extant GRAP (as on 24.12.2025), average inspection of C&D sites of plot area 500 sq.m. and above continued to remain critically low, with average gap of 87% in Delhi, 100% in Haryana (NCR), 79% in Rajasthan (NCR) and 97% in Uttar Pradesh (NCR). Length of road mechanically swept (in Kms) also remained inadequate with average gap of 70% in Delhi and 68% in Haryana (NCR), while Rajasthan (NCR) showed a marginal gap of 7% and Uttar Pradesh (NCR) exceeded the requirement by 8%. Average deployment of MRSMs again reflected shortfall with average gap of 60% in Delhi and 40% in Haryana (NCR), whereas Rajasthan (NCR) exceeded the requirement by 143% and Uttar Pradesh by 79%.

The performance review based on complaints received through social media platforms during Stage-III and Stage-IV of the extant GRAP schedule further highlights serious concerns. During Stage-III of the extant GRAP, Delhi received 115 complaints out of which 53% were resolved and 47% remained unresolved. Similarly, Haryana (NCR) received 79 complaints, out of which 43% were resolved and 57% stood unresolved. Rajasthan (NCR) received 01 complaint which stood unresolved and Uttar Pradesh (NCR) received 125 complaints over social media out of which 29% have been resolved and 71% remained unresolved.

During Stage-IV of the extant GRAP, Delhi received 50 complaints over social media, out of which only 32% were resolved and 68% stood unresolved. Similarly, Haryana (NCR) received 28 complaints over social media during this period, out of which 29% were resolved and 71% stood unresolved. Rajasthan (NCR) received 01 complaint which stood unresolved and Uttar Pradesh (NCR) received 68 complaints out of which 19% were resolved and 81% remained unresolved.

CAQM has also taken up the issue of complaints redressal on Social Media with the Chief Secretaries of Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, highlighting serious pendency in resolution of complaints relating to air pollution received through social media platforms, emphasising the importance of timely redressal of citizen grievances and direct concerned agencies to ensure timely resolution of long-pending complaints.

The review of various actions being implemented across Delhi-NCR during Stage-III and Stage-IV of the extant schedule of GRAP thus indicates serious non-compliance by DPCC/SPCBs and concerned implementing agencies. In this regard, the Commission has directed DPCC/SPCBs to identify officers responsible for non-compliance of implementation of action(s) to be taken under GRAP and to initiate appropriate necessary proceeding(s) against them.

CAQM noted that such recurring gaps and failure in implementation of actions under the extant GRAP, particularly during periods of 'Severe' and 'Severe+' air quality in the region, seriously compromises the collective efforts towards abatement of air pollution in Delhi-NCR. The Commission emphasizes that strict and timely implementation of GRAP measures is mandatory and binding.
