

# Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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## PRESS RELEASE

- GRAP Stage-III was invoked by the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP on 16.01.2026, in view of deterioration of AQI of Delhi;
- Today, Delhi's average AQI of the day clocked 322 ('Very Poor' category), as per the daily AQI Bulletin provided by CPCB, clearly indicating a downward trend;
- CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP met today in view of improvement in the air quality of Delhi-NCR;
- As per the dynamic model and forecasts for meteorological conditions and air quality index made available by IMD/ IITM, the average AQI of Delhi is likely to remain in 'Moderate' to 'Poor' category in the coming days;
- Keeping in view the disruptive nature of restrictions under Stage-III of GRAP impacting a large number of stakeholders and public as well as considering the trend of improvement in the average AQI of Delhi, the GRAP Sub-Committee unanimously decides to revoke Stage-III of the extant schedule of GRAP in the entire NCR, with immediate effect;
- All actions under Stages II & I of the extant schedule of GRAP (November 2025) shall however remain invoked and be implemented, intensified, monitored and reviewed by all agencies concerned in the entire NCR to ensure that the AQI levels do not rise further in the coming days;
- Construction & Demolition project sites etc. which have been issued specific closure orders on account of violations/ non-compliances of various statutory directions, rules, guidelines etc. shall not resume their operations without specific order to this effect from the Commission;
- All agencies responsible for implementation of various actions listed under Stages II & I of the extant GRAP shall strictly implement the provisions and citizens are advised to follow the charter of GRAP under Stages II & I to obviate the need for re-imposition of Stage-III of extant GRAP in NCR;
- The Sub-Committee shall be keeping a close watch on the situation and will review the air quality scenario from time to time for further appropriate decision depending upon the air quality in Delhi and forecast made by IMD/IITM;

➤ The extant GRAP schedule (November 2025) can be accessed from the Commission's website, i.e., <https://caqm.nic.in/>

NEW DELHI:

The Sub-Committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) vide its order dated 16.01.2026, invoked Stage-III of extant GRAP when the average AQI of Delhi started to exhibit an increasing trend.

Delhi's daily average AQI has been showing a downward trend from past a few days as it recorded 378 on 20.01.2026, which improved to 330 on 21.01.2026 (yesterday) and further improved to 322 today, as per the AQI Bulletin provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Noting a downward trend in the AQI of Delhi, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP met today to review the current air quality scenario in the region as well as forecasts for meteorological conditions and air quality index made available by IMD/ IITM and accordingly take an appropriate call on the preventive/ restrictive actions under Stage-III of extant GRAP in place in the entire National Capital Region (NCR) since 16.01.2026.

While comprehensively reviewing the overall air quality parameters of Delhi-NCR, the Sub-Committee observed as under:

- *The AQI of Delhi has been improving owing to favourable meteorological conditions and recorded as 322 today i.e. on 22.01.2026. Forecast by IMD/ IITM indicates that AQI is likely to remain in "moderate" to "poor" category in coming days.*

Therefore, keeping in view the disruptive nature of restrictions under Stage-III of extant GRAP impacting a large number of stakeholders and public as well as considering the trend of improvement in the average AQI of Delhi and also the forecasts by IMD/ IITM indicating the likelihood of the average AQI of Delhi to stay in 'Moderate' to 'Poor' category in the coming days, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP today unanimously decided to revoke all actions under Stage-III of the extant schedule of GRAP in the entire NCR, with immediate effect.

Further, all actions under Stages II & I of the extant schedule of GRAP (November 2025) shall, however remain invoked and be implemented, monitored and reviewed by all agencies concerned in the entire NCR to ensure that the AQI levels do not rise further in the coming days. Agencies shall keep strict vigil and especially intensify measures under Stages II & I of the extant schedule of GRAP in order to obviate the need for re-imposition of Stage-III of extant GRAP in NCR.

Construction & Demolition project sites etc. which have been issued specific closure orders on account of violations/ non-compliances of various Statutory Directions, rules, guidelines etc. shall under no circumstances, resume their operations without any specific order to this effect from the Commission.

While GRAP Stage-III is being revoked, keeping in view the winter season when weather conditions may not be always favourable and in order to ensure that the AQI levels do not slip further, citizens are requested to strictly adhere to the citizen charter under Stages II and I of the extant schedule of GRAP.

The Sub-Committee, shall keep a close watch on the air quality scenario and review the situation from time to time for further appropriate decisions depending upon the air quality in Delhi and forecast for meteorological conditions and air quality index made available by IMD/ IITM.

The extant schedule of GRAP (November 2025) is available on the Commission's website, i.e., <https://caqm.nic.in/>

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