

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan,
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 13th December 2025

PRESS RELEASE

- Today, Delhi's average AQI has shown a sharp rise and was recorded 401 at 10AM, i.e. 'Severe' Category (AQI ranging between 401-450);
- CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP convened its meeting today in the morning to take stock of current air quality scenario exhibiting a sharp increasing trend in AQI owing to calm winds, stable atmosphere unfavourable meteorological conditions and lack of dispersal of pollutants;
- The Sub-Committee accordingly decides to invoke the 9-point action plan as per Stage-III of extant GRAP in the entire NCR with immediate effect, in an effort to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region;
- Actions under Stages-I, II & III of the extant GRAP shall be implemented, monitored and reviewed by all the agencies concerned in the entire NCR to ensure that the AQI levels do not slip further. All implementing agencies shall keep strict vigil and intensify measures of the extant schedule of GRAP;
- CAQM urges citizens to cooperate and adhere to the Citizen Charter of GRAP;
- Agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP including Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of NCR States and DPCC addressed to ensure successful and strict implementation of actions under Stage-III of extant GRAP in addition to actions under Stage-I and Stage-II of extant GRAP in NCR;
- The Sub-Committee, shall be keeping a close watch on the air quality scenario and review the situation from time to time for further appropriate decision depending upon the Air Quality in Delhi and forecast made by IMD/ IITM;
- Complete details of the extant GRAP schedule may be accessed from the Commission's official website, i.e., <https://caqm.nic.in>

NEW DELHI:

Today, Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) has been on an increasing trend since morning and clocked 401 at 10 AM. In wake of deteriorating air quality of Delhi, the Sub-Committee on the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air

Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas convened its meeting today in the morning.

Noting an increasing trend in AQI levels of Delhi, the Sub-Committee on GRAP in its meeting, reviewed the air quality scenario in the region as well as forecast for meteorological conditions and air quality index and observed as under:

- *The AQI of Delhi which was recorded as 349 for 12.12.2025 ('Very Poor' Category), exhibited a sharp increasing trend and has been recorded 401 ('Severe' Category) at 10:00 AM on 13.12.2025 owing to calm winds, stable atmosphere unfavourable meteorological conditions and lack of dispersal of pollutants.*

The significant reason for this spike is not contributed by the emissions but the feeble Western Disturbance approaching north-west India. This prevailing meteorological condition has marked reduction in wind speed, at times becoming calm, a shift in wind direction from westerly to easterly, and an increase in moisture content in the lower atmosphere. Such conditions during the winter season are conducive to the formation of smog and fog, resulting in poor dispersion and trapping of pollutants near the surface. Owing to these adverse meteorological conditions, a sudden deterioration in air quality has been observed.

Keeping in view the prevailing trend of air quality, and in an effort to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region, the Sub-Committee has taken the call to invoke all actions as envisaged under Stage-III of extant GRAP - 'Severe' Air Quality (DELHI AQI ranging between 401-450), with immediate effect, in the entire NCR. This is in addition to the actions under Stages I & II of extant GRAP already in-force in NCR. Various agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP including Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of NCR and DPCC have also been directed to ensure strict implementation of actions under Stage-III of extant GRAP in addition to actions under Stages I & II of GRAP during this period.

A 9-point action plan as per Stage-III of extant GRAP is applicable with immediate effect in the entire NCR. This 9-point action plan includes steps to be implemented/ ensured by different agencies including Pollution Control Boards of NCR and DPCC. These steps are:

1. Construction & Demolition activities:

(i) Enforce strict restrictions on the following categories of dust generating/ air pollution causing C&D activities in the entire NCR:

- Earthwork for excavation and filling including boring & drilling works.
- Piling works.
- All demolition works.
- Laying of sewer line, water line, drainage and electric cabling etc. by open trench system.
- Brick / masonry works.
- Operation of RMC batching plant.

- Major welding and gas-cutting operations. *Minor welding activities for MEP works (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) to be, however, permitted.*
- Painting, polishing and varnishing works etc.
- Cement, Plaster / other coatings, *except for minor indoor repairs/ maintenance.*
- Cutting / grinding and fixing of tiles, stones and other flooring materials, *except for minor indoor repairs/ maintenance.*
- Road construction activities and major repairs.
- Transfer, loading / unloading of dust generating materials like cement, fly-ash, bricks, sand, murram, pebbles, crushed stone etc. anywhere within / outside the project sites.
- Movement of vehicles carrying construction materials on unpaved roads.
- Any transportation of demolition waste.

(ii) All construction related activities, **other than those listed under 1(i) above**, which are relatively less polluting / less dust generating shall be permitted to be continued in the NCR, subject to strict compliance of the C&D Waste Management Rules, dust prevention/ control norms including compliance with the directions of the Commission issued from time to time.

(iii) All C&D related activities, including those under 1(i) above, shall be continued to be permitted only for the following categories of projects, however subject to strict compliance of the C&D Waste Management Rules, dust prevention/ control norms including compliance with the directions of the Commission issued from time to time:

- (a) Projects for Railway services and stations
- (b) Projects for Metro Rail Services and stations
- (c) Airports and Inter State Bus Terminals
- (d) National security/ defence related activities/ projects of national importance
- (e) Hospitals/ health care facilities
- (f) Linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, over bridges, power transmission/ distribution, pipelines, tele-communication services etc.
- (g) Sanitation projects like sewage treatment plants and water supply projects etc.
- (h) Ancillary activities, specific to and supplementing the above project categories.

2. Close down operations of stone crushers in the entire NCR.
3. Close down all mining and associated activities in the entire NCR.
4. NCR State Govts. / GNCTD to impose strict restrictions on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel LMVs (4-wheelers) in Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar.

Note: Persons with Disabilities shall be permitted to ply BS-III Petrol / BS-IV Diesel LMVs, provided that these are specifically adopted for them and are run only for their personal use.

5. GNCTD to impose strict restrictions on plying of Delhi - registered Diesel operated Medium Goods Vehicles (MGVs) to BS-IV standards or below, in Delhi, except those vehicles carrying essential commodities / providing essential services.
6. GNCTD to not permit BS-IV diesel operated LCVs (goods carriers) registered outside Delhi, to enter Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities / providing essential services.
7.
 - (i) State Govts. in the NCR and the GNCTD to mandatorily conduct classes in schools for children up to class V in a “Hybrid” mode i.e., both in physical and online mode (wherever online mode is feasible) in the territorial jurisdiction of the NCT of Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar.
 - (ii) The NCR State Governments may also consider conducting classes for students up to Class V in a “Hybrid” mode as above in other areas in NCR.

Note: The option to exercise the online mode of education, wherever available, shall vest with the students and their guardians.

8. NCR State Governments / GNCTD to take a decision on allowing public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home.
9. Central Government may take appropriate decision on permitting work from home for employees in central government offices.

Further, CAQM urges the citizens of NCR to cooperate in implementing GRAP and follow the steps mentioned in the Citizen Charter under GRAP. In addition to steps under Citizen Charter of Stages I & II, citizens are advised to:

- Walk or use cycles for small distances.
- Choose a cleaner commute. Share a ride to work or use public transport.
- People, whose positions allow working from home, may work from home.
- Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose.
- Individual house owners may also provide electric heaters to security/ other staff employed by them to avoid open burning of bio-mass/ wood/ MSW.
- Combine errands and reduce trips.

The Sub-Committee, shall be keeping a close watch on the air quality scenario and review the situation from time to time for further appropriate decision depending upon the Air Quality in Delhi and forecast made by IMD/ IITM.

Complete details of the extant schedule of GRAP are available on the Commission’s website and can be accessed via <https://caqm.nic.in>
