

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

- The CAQM Sub-Committee for invoking actions under GRAP holds a review meeting in view of significant improvement in the air quality of Delhi-NCR
- Today at 4PM, Delhi's overall AQI clocked at 304 as per the CPCB Bulletin; The forecasts by IMD/ IITM do not indicate the AQI to slip into "Severe" category in the next few days
- As per the dynamic model and weather/ meteorological forecasts, wind conditions are favourable and the overall air quality over Delhi is likely to improve and fluctuate between 'Poor' to 'Very Poor category in the coming days
- Overall AQI of Delhi has been progressively improving with 407 recorded on 04.12.2022; 347 on 05.12.2022; 353 on 06.12.2022; and 304 recorded today which is about 100 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the GRAP Stage-III actions
- Keeping in view improvement in the AQI of Delhi-NCR, the GRAP Sub-Committee accordingly decides to revoke Stage-III of the GRAP in entire NCR with immediate effect
- C&D project sites and industrial units which have been issued specific closure orders on account of violations/ non-compliances of various statutory directions, rules, guidelines etc. under no circumstances shall resume their operations without any specific order to this effect from the CAQM
- All actions as envisaged under Stage-I along with Stage-II, to continue and intensified in right earnest by all the agencies concerned in the NCR
- CAQM is closely watching the situation and will review the air quality scenario accordingly
- The Commission advises citizens to cooperate and follow the Citizen Charter under the GRAP

- Agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP and Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of NCR and DPCC also advised to intensify actions under Stage I and Stage II of the GRAP
- The detailed GRAP document can be easily accessed from the Commission's website, i.e., caqm.nic.in

NEW DELHI:

In view of noteworthy improvement in the overall air quality of Delhi witnessed in the last few days with a fall of more than 100 points in the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) since last invocation of Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on 04.12.2022, the Sub-Committee for invoking actions under GRAP of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas (CAQM) held a meeting today to review the situation and take the appropriate call. While comprehensively reviewing the overall air quality parameters of Delhi-NCR, the Commission noted that due to forecasts by IMD/ IITM not indicating the overall AQI of Delhi to slip into "Severe" category in the next few days and as it is likely to fluctuate between 'Poor' to 'Very Poor' category, it is advisable to relax the restrictions and further roll back Stage-III of the GRAP with immediate effect in the entire NCR.

The GRAP Sub-Committee in its earlier meetings had invoked actions under Stage-I, Stage-II, Stage-III and Stage-IV of the GRAP in the entire NCR on 05.10.2022, 19.10.2022, 29.10.2022 and 03.11.2022 respectively. Further, Sub-Committee in its review meeting revoked the actions under Stage-IV ('Severe+' Air Quality) of GRAP on 06.11.2022, and revoked Stage-III ('Severe' Air Quality) of GRAP on 14.11.2022 after considering the improvement in air quality of Delhi and AQI forecasts of subsequent days. Stage III of the GRAP was again invoked in the entire Delhi-NCR on 04.12.2022 after sudden increase in the overall AQI of Delhi.

The Sub-Committee in its today's meeting comprehensively reviewed the air quality scenario in the region as well as the IMD/IITM forecasts for meteorological conditions and air quality index of Delhi and observed as under:

- The overall AQI of Delhi has been progressively improving with 407 recorded on 04.12.2022; 347 on 05.12.2022; 353 on 06.12.2022; and 304 recorded today which is below the threshold for invoking the GRAP Stage-III actions (Delhi AQI 401-450). Further, the AQI is seeing a downward trend with favourable improvement in the average AQI as well. Preventive/ mitigative/ restrictive actions under all Stages up to Stage-II are already underway and the forecasts by IMD/ IITM also do not indicate the AQI to fall in 'Severe' category in next few days.

Further, actions under Stage-I to Stage-II of the GRAP 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 slip further to the 'Severe' category. All implementing agencies shall keep strict vigil and especially intensify measures under Stage I & II of GRAP which include the following:

- Mechanical/vacuum-based sweeping of roads to be carried out on a daily basis.
- Ensure water sprinkling along with use of dust suppressants regularly on roads to arrest road dust especially at hotspots, heavy traffic corridors, vulnerable areas (before peak hours) and proper disposal of dust collected in designated sites/landfills.
- Regular inspection and strict enforcement of dust control measures at Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites and enforcement of direction on use of Ani-Smog guns.
- Do not allow coal / firewood including in Tandoors in Hotels, Restaurants and open eateries.
- Ensure hotels, restaurants and open eateries use only electricity/ clean fuel gas-based appliances
- Enhance Parking fees to discourage private transport
- Regulated use of DG Sets except for the emergent and essential services.

C&D project sites and industrial units which have been issued specific closure orders on account of violations/ non-compliances of various statutory directions, rules, guidelines etc. under no circumstances shall resume their operations without any specific order to this effect from the Commission.

Further, the Commission has once again appealed to the citizens of NCR to cooperate in implementing GRAP and follow the steps mentioned in the Citizen Charter under the GRAP. Citizens are advised to:

- Use public transport and minimize use of personal vehicles.
- Regularly replace air filters at recommended intervals in your automobiles.
- Avoid dust generating construction activities

Various agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP and Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of NCR and DPCC have also been advised to ensure strict implementation of actions of Stage I and Stage II under GRAP in the NCR.

Further, the Commission is closely watching the situation and will review the air quality scenario accordingly. The revised schedule of the GRAP is available on the Commission's official website and can be accessed via caqm.nic.in
