

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
- As per the dynamic model and weather/ meteorological forecast, the overall air quality over Delhi is likely to improve and stay in 'Very Poor' category in the coming days
- The forecast by IMD/ IITM do not indicate any steep degradation in the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR further
- Keeping in view its disruptive nature impacting a large number of stakeholders and public at large and with significant improvement in the AQI of Delhi-NCR, the GRAP Sub-Committee accordingly decides to roll back the Stage IV of GRAP in entire NCR with immediate effect
- All actions as envisaged under Stage III of the GRAP along with Stage I and Stage II, to continue and intensified in right earnest by all the agencies concerned in the NCR.
- The sub-Committee shall be keeping a close watch on the air quality scenario and may take appropriate decisions depending on the air quality, as recorded from time to time, and the forecasts made by IMD/IITM to this effect
- CAQM advises citizens to cooperate and follow the Citizen Charter under GRAP
- Agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP and Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of NCR and DPCC also advised to ensure strict implementation of actions under GRAP
- The detailed GRAP document can be easily accessed from the Commission's website, i.e., caqm.nic.in

NEW DELHI:

In view of significant improvement in the overall air quality of the Delhi-NCR seen in the past few days after invocation of Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), 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 on the stringent actions under Stage IV of GRAP implemented in the entire National Capital Region on 03.11.2022. While comprehensively reviewing the overall air quality parameters of Delhi-NCR, the Commission noted that due to forecast by IMD/ IITM not indicating any steep degradation in the overall air quality of Delhi-NCR in the coming days, it is advisable to relax the restrictions and further roll back Stage IV of GRAP with immediate effect in the entire NCR. The GRAP Sub-Committee in its last meeting held on 03.11.2022 invoked Stage IV of GRAP in the entire NCR and decided to review its impact on 06.11.2022.

The GRAP Sub-Committee in its earlier meetings had invoked actions under Stage I, Stage II, Stage III and Stage IV of the GRAP on 05.10.2022, 19.10.2022, 29.10.2022 and 03.11.2022 respectively. The Sub-Committee in today's meeting 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:

- i. The GRAP is an emergency response action plan invoked with a view to arrest further deterioration of adverse air quality scenario in NCR.
- ii. In wake of the Delhi AQI nearing the 'Severe +' Category (AQI >450), the GRAP Stage-IV actions were invoked on 03.11.2022 based on the AQI forecasts. The forecasts also indicated a significant improvement around 5th - 6th November, 2022, therefore, the sub-Committee while invoking Stage-IV of the GRAP, decided for a review of the situation on 6th November, 2022.
- iii. The average AQI of Delhi for 6th November, 2022 has been recorded as 339 ('Very Poor' Category), corroborating with the IMD/IITM forecast of an improvement.
- iv. As the present AQI level of Delhi is around 340 which is about 110 AQI points below the threshold for invoking the GRAP Stage-IV actions (Delhi AQI > 450) and preventive/ mitigative/ restrictive actions under all Stages up to Stage-IV are underway, there is a likelihood of sustaining the improvement in AQI. The forecast by IMD/ IITM also do not indicate any steep degradation further.
- v. The GRAP Stage-IV is a disruptive stage of restrictions and impacts a large number of stakeholders and public at large. There are no stricter measures, than as laid in GRAP Stage-IV, that could be taken to improve upon the air quality scenario.

In view of the aforesaid observations, the GRAP Sub-Committee has decided to revoke the order, issued vide dated 03.11.2022, for actions under Stage-IV of the GRAP with immediate effect. Further, actions under Stages I, Stage II and Stage III of the GRAP 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 slip further to the 'Severe' / 'Severe +' category.

The sub-Committee shall be keeping a close watch on the air quality scenario and may take appropriate decisions depending on the air quality, as recorded from time to time, and the forecasts made by IMD/IITM to this effect.

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 GRAP. Citizens are advised to:

- Choose a cleaner commute - share a ride to work or use public transport or walk or cycle.
- People, whose positions allow working from home, may work from home.
- Do not use coal and wood for heating purpose.
- Individual house owners may provide electric heaters (during winters) to security staff to avoid open burning.
- Carry out multiple tasks in a single trip. Walk to errands wherever possible.

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, Stage II and Stage III under GRAP in the NCR.

The revised schedule of GRAP is available on the Commission's website and can be accessed via caqm.nic.in
