

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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Dated: 29th January, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

- As per the extant orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, GRAP Stage-IV and Stage-III presently kick in the NCR at AQI levels of 400 & 350 respectively in Delhi;
- Delhi's AQI for the day clocked 365 today, i.e. 'Very Poor' Category (AQI ranging between 301-400), as per the Daily AQI Bulletin provided by CPCB;
- CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP observed that the AQI of Delhi which was recorded as 276 on 28.01.2025, exhibited a sharp increasing trend and has been recorded 365 today owing to variable direction/calm winds, smoggy situation, low mixing height & ventilation coefficient for dispersion of pollutants;
- Forecasts from IMD/ IITM also suggests similar situations to persist in coming days;
- The Sub-Committee accordingly decides to invoke the 9-point action plan as per Stage-III of the extant schedule of GRAP in the entire NCR with immediate effect, in an effort to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region;
- All actions as envisaged under Stage-III of the extant schedule of GRAP, be implemented in right earnest by all the agencies concerned in NCR, with immediate effect, in addition to all actions under Stages I & II of GRAP already in force;
- 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 the extant schedule of GRAP in addition to actions under Stage-I and Stage-II of GRAP in NCR;
- CAQM is keeping a close watch on the situation and will review the air quality scenario on a regular basis in the coming days;
- Complete details of the extant schedule of 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 breached the 350 mark as the AQI for the day clocked 365 today as per the Daily AQI Bulletin provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). 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 called on a meeting today to review the air quality scenario and forecasts for meteorological conditions and air quality index made available by IMD/IITM.

Noting an increasing trend in AQI levels of Delhi, the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP in its today's meeting observed as under:

- The AQI of Delhi which was recorded as 276 on 28.01.2025, exhibited a sharp increasing trend and has been recorded 365 at 4:00 PM on 29.01.2025 owing to variable direction/calm winds, smoggy situation, low mixing height & ventilation coefficient for dispersion of pollutants. The forecast from IMD/ IITM suggests similar situations to persist in coming days.

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 today has taken the call to invoke all actions as envisaged under Stage-III of the extant schedule of GRAP, with immediate effect, in the entire NCR. This is in addition to the actions under Stages I & II of the extant schedule of 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 addressed to ensure strict implementation of actions under Stage-III of the extant schedule of GRAP in addition to actions under Stages I & II of GRAP during this period.

A 9-point action plan as per Stage-III of the extant schedule of 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 Budh 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 and below 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.

(i) GNCTD and NCR State Governments to stagger timings for public offices and municipal bodies in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar.

(ii) State Governments may take a decision to stagger timings for public offices and municipal bodies in other areas of NCR.

9. Central Government may take a decision on staggering of timings of Central Government offices in Delhi-NCR.

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.

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