

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage I – Combating Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR

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Context:

Delhi Government notifies curbs on firecrackers; GRAP Stage 1 plan kicks in.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):

- It is a framework designed tocombat air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region
- It was**introduced as an emergency response mechanism**, and its implementation is triggered when the AQI reaches "poor" levels.
- Implementation of GRAP: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and adjoining areas oversees the implementation of Graded Response Action Plan
- It collaborates with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Different Stages of GRAP to Tackle Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR

- **Revision of GRAP:**Graded Response Action Plan was revised as the CAQM "anticipated deterioration of air quality in NCR during winter months.
- Graded Response Action Plan consists of four stages, each with targeted actions to be taken by the necessary authorities and agencies
- Stage I "Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 201-300):Strict enforcement of regulations on overaged diesel/petrol vehicles.
- Stage II "Very Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 301-400): Focused action in identified pollution hotspots.
- Limited operation hours for certain diesel generators.
- Stage III "Severe" air quality (Delhi AQI: 401-450):Restrictions on specific vehicles in certain districts.
- Possible shift to online classes for younger students.
- Stage IV "Severe+" air quality (Delhi AQI > 450):Stringent entry restrictions for vehicles from outside Delhi.
- Potential closure of educational institutions and non-essential businesses.

Significance of GRAP – Empowering Public Health

- **Safeguarding Public Health:**GRAP is **pivotal in safeguarding public health**, especially during peak pollution seasons.
- **Proactive Pollution Management**: Its proactive approach **ensures that measures are taken before air quality deteriorates significantly,** preventing adverse health effects and environmental damage.
- Adaptive Pollution Control: The plan's dynamic nature allows it to adapt to changing pollution levels, providing a comprehensive strategy to combat air pollution.

The implementation of **GRAP Stage I in Delhi-NCR**marks a crucial step in combating air pollution, focusing on the significance of proactive measures for public health and environmental sustainability. Its**adaptive nature and stringent actions**underscore its pivotal role in safeguarding the well-being of the region

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What is prohibited under the revised

STAGE 1: 'Poor' AQI category (AQI 201-300) Same as earlier Grap's 'Poor' category

STAGE 2: 'Very Poor' AQI category (AQI 301-400)



- Banning diesel generator sets (Except for emergent and essential services)
- Ban on coal or firewood including in tandoors in hotels, restaurants, open eateries

STAGE 3: 'Severe' AQI category (AQI 401-450)

- Ban on C&D activities in NCR, except essential projects (like railways, metros, airports, ISBTs, national security/defence related /projects of national importance) and non-polluting/non-dust generating activ as plumbing, interior decoration, electrical w
- Regulate operations of industries in NCR not on PNG, cleaner fuels, biomass fuels to maxin days per week (staggering 'off days' for diffe of industries in the entire week)
- Shutting down of brick kilns, hot mix plants, crushers not operating on clean fuels
- Ban on mining and associated activities in NC
- State governments in NCR/GNCTD may impose restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel I motor vehicles (LMVs) (four-wheeler vehicles

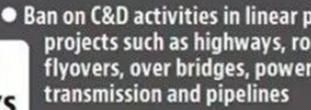
STAGE 4: 'Severe+' AQI category (AQI > 450)

- Stop entry of truck traffic into Delhi (Except trucks carrying essential commodities or providing essential services and CNG or electric trucks).
- Ban on plying of Delhi registered diesel-run medium and heavy goods vehicles in Delhi (except those with essential commodities or providing essential services)
- Ban on plying of four-wheeler diesel light motor vehicles (LMVs) in Delhi and the bordering districts of NCR (except)

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industries like milk and dairy or in manufacturing of life-saving equipment/devices, drugs



State governments to decide allowing 50% staff strength to from home (WFH) in public, m and private offices

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