



Graded Response Action Plan

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Why in News?

Recently, the [Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR & Adjoining Areas \(CAQM\)](#) has announced a revision **in the existing** [Graded Response Action Plan \(GRAP\)](#) to combat air pollution in the region.

- The revised GRAP contains **targeted actions that need to be taken** by the agencies responsible/ implementing agencies when [AQI \(Air Quality Index\)](#) of Delhi **goes beyond a certain threshold**.
- Earlier, research was published in the journal Nature titled- [“Machine learning-based country-level annual air pollutants exploration using Sentinel-5P and Google Earth Engine”](#), showing that, **during 2018-2021**, India witnessed the maximum levels of human-induced [Air Pollution](#).

What is a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)?

- **About:**
 - GRAP is a **set of emergency measures** that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once **it reaches a certain threshold** in the Delhi-NCR region.
 - It was approved by the Supreme Court in 2016 after the Supreme Court's order in the matter of ***M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (2016)*** and notified in 2017.
- **Implementation:**
 - From 2021 onwards, the GRAP is being implemented by the **CAQM**.
 - Till 2020, the Supreme Court-appointed [Environment Pollution \(Prevention & Control\) Authority \(EPCA\)](#) used to order States to implement GRAP measures.
 - The EPCA was dissolved and replaced by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** in 2020.
 - CAQM relies on air quality and **meteorological forecasts** by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** and the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.
- **Revision:**
 - **Stage I (Poor Air Quality - AQI 201-300):** Enforce NGT / Hon'ble SC's order on over aged diesel / petrol vehicles.
 - **Stage II (Very Poor- AQI 301-400):** Targeted actions to **combat air pollution at identified hotspots** in the region. Regulated operations of DG (Diesel Generators) have been set across all sectors in the NCR.
 - **Stage III ('Severe'- AQI 401-450):** Impose strict restrictions on **BS III petrol** and **BS IV diesel four-wheelers** in certain areas and may suspend physical classes in schools for primary grade children up to Class 5.
 - **Stage IV (Severe Plus- AQI greater than 450):** When the AQI exceeds 450, four-wheelers registered outside Delhi, except for electric vehicles, CNG vehicles, and BS-VI diesel vehicles and vehicle carrying essential commodity, **will not be allowed to enter the city**.

Note: An **AQI** is a number used by **government agencies** to measure the **air pollution levels and**

communicate it to the population. As the AQI increases, it means that a **large percentage of the population will experience severe adverse** health effects.

What are the Government Initiatives to Combat Air Pollution?

- [Graded Response Action Plan \(Delhi\)](#)
- [Polluter Pay principle](#)
- [Smog Tower](#)
- [Tallest Air Purifier](#)
- [National Clean Air Programme \(NCAP\)](#)
- [BS-VI vehicles](#)
- [New Commission for Air Quality Management](#)
- [Turbo Happy Seeder \(THS\)](#)
- [Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research \(SAFAR\)](#)
- [Dashboard for Monitoring Air Quality](#)
- [National Air Quality Index \(AQI\)](#)
- [Air \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1981](#)
- [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/graded-response-action-plan-3>

