



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalsivam Kamarajar"

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

Published On: 15-10-2024

Context:

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

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):

- It is a framework designed to **combat 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

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

What is prohibited under the revised Grap

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

80
DAYS
LAST
YEAR

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

65
DAYS
LAST
YEAR

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 activities such as plumbing, interior decoration, electrical works etc
- Regulate operations of industries in NCR not running on PNG, cleaner fuels, biomass fuels to maximum five days per week (staggering 'off days' for different sets of industries in the entire week)
- Shutting down of brick kilns, hot mix plants, stone crushers not operating on clean fuels
- Ban on mining and associated activities in NCR
- State governments in NCR/GNCTD may impose restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light motor vehicles (LMVs) (four-wheeler vehicles)

20
DAYS
LAST
YEAR

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 for BS-VI vehicles and vehicles used for essential or emergency services)
- Ban on industries in NCR, which are not running on clean fuels (except essential industries like milk and dairy or involved in manufacturing of life-saving medical equipment/devices, drugs)
- Ban on C&D activities in linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, over bridges, power transmission and pipelines
- State governments to decide on allowing 50% staff strength to work from home (WFH) in public, municipal and private offices
- State governments may consider additional emergency measures like closure of schools, colleges, educational institutions, plying of vehicles on an odd-even basis

4
DAYS
LAST
YEAR