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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 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

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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

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 as plumbing, interior decoration, electrical work
- Regulate operations of industries in NCR not on PNG, cleaner fuels, biomass fuels to maximum 2 days per week (staggering 'off days' for different 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 NCR
- State governments in NCR/GNCTD may impose restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel light 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

4
DAYS
LAST
YEAR

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

- Ban on C&D activities in linear projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, over bridges, power transmission and pipelines
- State governments to decide allowing 50% staff strength to work from home (WFH) in public, municipal and private offices
- State governments may consider