

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 60
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Containing air pollution in Delhi NCR

***60. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:**

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons as to why the air pollution could not be contained year after year in Delhi NCR;
- (b) the details of measures undertaken to control it during the last one year;
- (c) the AQI levels recorded since October, 2025; and
- (d) the budget spent on controlling the air pollution during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 60 DUE FOR REPLY ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING CONTAINING AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI NCR BY DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) to (d): With coordinated efforts, number of good days (AQI<200) in Delhi have increased to 200 days in 2025 from 110 days in 2016. While there is an overall improvement in the AQI this year, very poor days (AQI: 301-400) and severe (AQI more than 401) days have reduced from 71 days in 2024 to 50 days in 2025. Delhi has observed lowest average AQI in the past 8 years i.e., from 2018 to 2025 (barring 2020 – COVID lockdown).

To address air pollution in Delhi-NCR, Government has established the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems of air pollution in Delhi- NCR and adjoining areas. CAQM has been provided powers under the Act to take measures and issue directions to the various agencies in the National Capital Region for protecting and improving air quality.

CAQM has been addressing the issue of air pollution in Delhi-NCR in a collective, collaborative and participative mode involving all the major stakeholders. CAQM has so far issued 95 Statutory Directions to specifically guide and direct various actions towards abatement of air pollution in the region. A monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of these directions has been put in place.

CAQM has come up with much stringent emission norms for various polluting activities in NCR, as compared to the national standards. These directions are rigorously monitored for implementation through periodic progress reviews, issuing subsequent orders and directions from time to time.

CAQM has prepared Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which provides set of emergency response actions, depending on severity of air pollution levels, to be implemented by identified agencies for minimizing air pollution, a situation that generally persists in the Delhi-NCR during the peak winter months.

Based on the dynamic model and weather forecast provided by IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) / IITM (Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology) on a day-to-day basis, actions under Stages I, II, III and IV of the GRAP are invoked in advance in anticipation of the AQI of Delhi reaching to the projected levels of that stage based on the overall meteorological conditions and anthropogenic activities.

CAQM has recently conducted comprehensive review of the contours of the existing GRAP and made the actions more stringent under the various stages of the GRAP. The revised GRAP schedule was issued by CAQM, vide Order dated 21.11.2025, and placed at **Annexure I**.

The Government has regularly reviewed and monitored the actions taken to address air pollution including stubble burning related issues in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas. Some of the recent key meetings are as below:

- i. Regular review meetings have been held on 08.08.2025, 16.09.2025, 10.10.2025, 11.11.2025 and 03.12.2025 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on the issues relating to air pollution control in Delhi-NCR, to deliberate upon the undertaking of air pollution abatement measures and strategies for further strengthening air quality management across the region;
- ii. Minister level Inter-Ministerial meeting was held on 07.10.2025 under the Co-chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare on the issues of management of Crop Residue Burning.

In the review meeting, it was agreed that Govt. of NCT Delhi to utilise the funds in expeditious manner to implement air pollution mitigation measures along with other important measures such as awarding work for evacuation of construction dust and drainage silt, organising 'Sewa Saptah' at all ward of Municipal Corporation of GNCTD and NCR States, implementation of FASTag and ANPR cameras at all tolls points for restriction of the entry of banned commercial vehicles, prepare integrated waste collection and management plan, identification and repair of stretches with potholes, end-to-end pavement of roads, feeder centres for Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste processing facility, steps to improve the offtake of recycled from C&D waste monitoring of large construction sites, mechanised road sweeping for roads with 20-60 ft as well as roads <20 ft wide, decongestion of 62 identified traffic congestion points in Delhi, increasing the green cover along Yamuna flood plains, time bound action plan for plantation of 1 crore trees under 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam', installation of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) and Air Pollution Control Devices (APCD) in all air polluting industries in a time bound manner.

Critical gap funding has been provided to 6 cities of Delhi NCR (Alwar, Noida, Delhi, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Meerut) under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) to take measures to improve air quality since 2019-20. NCAP also leverages the mobilisation of resources through convergence of Central Government schemes and programmes, such as, AMRUT 1.0 & 2.0, Swachh Bharat Mission 1.0 & 2.0, FAME II and Grand Challenge Scheme, Metro Rail under which funds have been disbursed to these cities for control of air pollution. Various Ministries/ Departments of Govt. of India provide funding under their Schemes/ Programmes as per their budgets.

The average AQI levels in Delhi NCR for October 2025 and November 2025 are 223 and 359, respectively. The AQI levels of Delhi during the month of November, 2025, is enclosed at **Annexure II.**

Annexure I

Details of amendments made to Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) by CAQM on 21.11.2025

The Commission has issued the following amendments in the schedule of GRAP:

A. The following measures currently under GRAP Stage II to be taken under GRAP Stage I:

- (1) Ensure uninterrupted power supply to discourage use of alternate power Generating sets/ equipment (DG sets etc.)
- (2) Synchronize traffic movements and deploy adequate personnel at intersections / traffic congestion points for smooth flow of traffic.
- (3) Alert in newspapers / TV / radio to advise people about air pollution levels and Do's and Don'ts for minimizing polluting activities
- (4) Augment public transport services through CNG/ electric buses and metro services by inducting additional fleet and increasing the frequency of service. Introduce differential rates to encourage off – peak travel.

B. The following measures currently under GRAP Stage III to be taken under GRAP Stage II:

- (1) (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 Budh Nagar.

(ii) State Governments may take a decision to stagger timings for public offices and municipal bodies in other areas of NCR.
- (2) Central Government may take a decision on staggering of timings of Central Government offices in Delhi – NCR.

C. The following measures currently under GRAP Stage IV to be taken under GRAP Stage III:

- (1) NCR State Governments / GNCTD to take a decision on allowing public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home.
- (2) Central Government may take appropriate decision on permitting work from home for employees in central government offices.

Annexure II

AQI levels in Delhi from 1st November, 2025 to 30th November, 2025

Date	AQI
1 November 2025	303
2 November 2025	366
3 November 2025	309
4 November 2025	291
5 November 2025	202
6 November 2025	311
7 November 2025	322
8 November 2025	361
9 November 2025	370
10 November 2025	362
11 November 2025	428
12 November 2025	418
13 November 2025	404
14 November 2025	387
15 November 2025	386
16 November 2025	377
17 November 2025	351
18 November 2025	374
19 November 2025	392
20 November 2025	391
21 November 2025	364
22 November 2025	370
23 November 2025	391
24 November 2025	382
25 November 2025	353
26 November 2025	327
27 November 2025	377
28 November 2025	369
29 November 2025	305
30 November 2025	279
