

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 543
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Pollution in Delhi/NCR

543. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) the levels of hazardous pollution recorded in Delhi NCR during the months of October-November during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government this year to prevent PM 2.5 levels from rising;
- (c) whether it is a fact that due to increase in hazardous pollution from various activities, including traffic, the risk of diseases rises by nearly 9 per cent; and
- (d) the details of steps taken to address the hazardous pollution in Delhi/NCR?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) : Levels of pollution recorded in terms of AQI and average concentrations of PM10 & PM2.5 in Delhi NCR during the months of October-November during the last three years is given in the table below:

Month	Parameter	2023	2024	2025
October	AQI	219	234	223
	PM 2.5 (µg/m ³)	105	114	108
	PM 10 (µg/m ³)	231	249	219
November	AQI	373	374	354
	PM 2.5 (µg/m ³)	240	246	223
	PM 10 (µg/m ³)	384	393	375

Various studies have been conducted by academic and research institutes on impact of air pollution. Studies found that health is affected by various factors including environmental conditions, food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc.

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.

The issue of air pollution in Delhi-NCR has been addressed by the Government in a collective, collaborative and participative mode involving all the major stakeholders. So far, 95 Statutory Directions have been issued through the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) 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.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been prepared, which provides set of emergency response actions, depending on severity of air pollution levels, and 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. Details of recent amendments in GRAP are enclosed 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 and 11.11.2025 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 aforesaid review meetings, 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 products 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.

NCT of Delhi has been provided a critical gap funding under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) to take measures to improve air quality. To implement air pollution mitigation measures, 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.

Government of NCT Delhi has reported that they have started implementation of various activities to utilise the funds for procurement of 14 Mechanical Road Sweeping (MRS), end-to-end paving and pothole-free maintenance of roads and greening of traffic corridors, open areas, gardens, community places, schools, and housing societies covering 2.6 ha which are at various stages. Further, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has informed that they have initiated procurement of four anti-smog guns on BS-VI CNG and seven modified anti-smog water guns for high-rise buildings and road improvement works.

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 days (AQI more than 401) 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).

Details of amendments made to Graded Response 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.
