

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 431
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Measures to address Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR

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

- (a) the details of air quality across the National Capital Region (NCR) during the last five years in comparison with the current average Air Quality Index (AQI) levels recorded for Delhi and adjoining NCR districts in 2025, State/UT and category-wise;
- (b) the sectoral contribution to pollution levels in Delhi during summer and winter months, across different pollutant categories and the details thereof including key factors and percentage of vehicular emissions, construction dust, industrial pollution, biomass burning, stubble burning in neighbouring States and waste burning, as per the latest available data;
- (c) whether any independent investigations have been initiated into the recurring air pollution crises in northern India, including Delhi (NCR), if so, the details and outcomes thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and other mitigation measures have achieved measurable and sustained reductions in air pollution levels in Delhi and NCR, if so, the details of year-wise air quality improvements since 2019;
- (e) the concrete steps being taken to ensure effective inter-State coordination, enforcement, expansion of public transport, promotion of electric vehicles and real-time pollution control to permanently address Delhi's air pollution crisis including measures enforced under Stage-III;
- (f) whether the Government has conducted any recent studies on the health impacts of deteriorating air quality on residents of Delhi such as respiratory diseases, reduced life expectancy and economic losses ;
- (g) the funds allocated by the Union Government, year-wise, for pollution control in Delhi since 2014 and its utilization including the funds allocated and utilised towards abating pollution from transportation since 2014; and
- (h) whether the Government has considered for undertaking long-term measures such as promoting clean energy, improving public transport, expanding green cover, residue management in coordination with State Government of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to address air pollution in Delhi-NCR and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a): The annual average Air Quality Index (AQI) for Delhi during last five years is as below:

Air Quality Index (AQI)	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Avg AQI	209	209	204	209	201

AQI values of remaining cities in Delhi-NCR during last five years are enclosed at **Annexure I.**

(b) & (c): Air pollution in Delhi is a collective result of multiple factors including high level of anthropogenic activities in the high-density populated areas in Delhi-NCR, arising from various sectors viz. Vehicular Pollution, Industrial Pollution, Dust from Construction and Demolition Project activities, Road and Open Areas Dust, Biomass Burning, Municipal Solid Waste burning, Fires in Landfills, air pollution from dispersed sources, etc. During post-monsoon and winter months, lower temperature, lower mixing heights, inversion conditions and stagnant winds lead to trapping of pollutants resulting in high pollution in the region. This is further aggravated due to the emissions from episodic events like stubble burning.

Based on the recent study undertaken by Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) through group of experts for 'Identification of the causes for worsening AQI in Delhi-NCR', the following sources within NCR and beyond have been identified for contributing to air pollution in Delhi:

Sector	Contribution range (%)	
	Winter	Summer
Transport	19-24	18-21
Industry	8-10	9-15
Dust (Road, Soil, and Construction & Demolition activities)	10-18	25-31
Biomass Burning (includes Municipal Solid Waste, residential, crop-residue burning)	17-23	11-14
Secondary Particulate (transformed from gaseous emissions from Transport, Industries, Biomass burning, etc.)	24-28	16-19

(d) to (h): 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.

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) and other 19

cities by Central Pollution Control Board to implement air quality improvement measures. Details allocation and utilization of funds provided under NCAP are enclosed at **Annexure II**.

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.

During the period from 2018-19 to 2025-26 (as on 20.01.2026), Rs. 4027.88 crores have been released to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi (Punjab-Rs. 2026.45 Crores, Haryana-Rs. 1156.71 crores, Uttar Pradesh- Rs.838.67 crores and NCT of Delhi- Rs. 6.05 Crores) by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare under Crop Residue Management scheme to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) provided financial assistance for establishment of 27 paddy straw based pelletisation and torrefaction plants (23 in Punjab, 04 in Haryana) with a capacity to utilise 5.16 lakh tonnes paddy straw annually.

5340 CNG/e-buses have been deployed for public transport in Delhi including 3535 e-buses. 2800 E-Buses and 1100 E-trucks have been allocated for Delhi under PM E-Drive scheme. Motor Vehicle Aggregators, Delivery Service Providers and E-Commerce Entities have been directed not to induct any conventional ICE vehicles running on diesel or petrol into their existing fleets of four-wheeler LCVs, four-wheeler LGVs (N1 category up to 3.5 tonnes) and two-wheelers from 01.01.2026 onwards. However, induction of BS-VI emission standard two-wheelers has been permitted in existing fleets up to 31.12.2026.

Based on the input received from MoHUA, under PM-eBus Sewa so far, a total of 450 electric buses has been sanctioned for participating cities (Faridabad, Gurugram, Rohtak, Panipat, Karnal & Alwar) of NCR region. The total Central Assistance approved, so far, to NCR region for Behind-the-meter (BTM) power and civil depot infrastructure is ₹35.77 crore under the scheme. By exclusively providing electric buses, the scheme helps in reducing emissions and promoting sustainable mobility. Further, amount of Rs. 66718.47 Crore has been released for Metro Rail/RRTS projects in Delhi and NCR region from FY 2014-15 and onwards.

Directions were issued to shift public transport buses coming from neighbouring States to BS-VI diesel/CNG/EV. From 01.11.2026, only CNG/EV/BS-VI diesel buses, including tourist buses, have been permitted to enter Delhi.

All the industries in NCR have been shifted to approved fuels. Out of 240 industrial areas in Delhi-NCR, 224 industrial areas have been provided with PNG connectivity, 6 are provided through cascade system. Directions have been issued for mandating stringent emission norms for industries in NCR.

CPCB has issued directions to DPCC/NCR SPCBs for Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) installation in remaining air polluting Red categories (Medium & Large), common facilities and 17 category industries on 01.10.2025 and in Textile, food processing and metal industries on 09.10.2025, Progress of installation of Online Continuous Monitoring System (OCEMS) in air polluting industries in Delhi-NCR was closely monitored.

Regular inspection of industries has been carried out for the enforcement of emission norms and actions are taken against the violators. Out of 12,852 inspections of industrial units conducted so far in NCR region, 792 closure orders against the violating units have been issued.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is an emergency response action plan which calls for a set of emergent preventive/restrictive actions depending on the air quality of Delhi.

Under Stage III of GRAP, strict restrictions were imposed on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel LMs (four-wheelers) in Delhi and in the Districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar. Additionally, BS-IV and below diesel-operated LCVs registered outside Delhi were not permitted to enter Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities or providing essential services, and similar restrictions were imposed on Delhi-registered diesel-operated MGVs of BS-IV standards or below.

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, 26.11.2025, 03.12.2025, 15.12.2025, 16.12.2025, 17.12.2025, 19.12.2025, 06.01.2026, 12.01.2026 and 20.01.2026 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. Special meeting has been convened with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and senior officials of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, to expedite pollution control measures under mission mode.
- 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, State Governments, urban local bodies and implementing agencies were directed to prepare action plans for implementation of air quality improvement measures in expeditious manner along with other important measures such as preparation of 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, decongestion of identified traffic congestion points, increasing the green cover, installation of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) and Air Pollution Control Devices (APCD) in all air polluting industries in a time bound manner.

Further, States of Delhi-NCR have been directed to prepare comprehensive district-wise action plan for greening of urban areas including identification of forest areas, Protected Areas, Zoos, Community forests, revenue forests, Nagar Vans/Namo Parks, Identification and mapping of degraded forest lands.

States of Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi have prepared short term and long-term action plans to address various air pollution mitigation activities.

The States of Punjab and Haryana have collectively recorded about 90% reduction in fire incidences during paddy harvesting season in the year 2025 in comparison to the same period in the year 2022.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued '*Health Advisory on Air Pollution*' to all States/UTs for strengthening health care services to address health issues arising due to exposure to air pollution.

Annexure I

Air Quality in cities of Delhi-NCR (in terms of days under AQI categories) during 2021 to 2025

State/U Ts	City	2021										2022										2023										2024										2025																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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State/U Ts	City	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025	
		(0-50)	Good	(0-50)	Good	(0-50)	Good	(0-50)	Good	(0-50)	Good
Uttar Pradesh	Meerut	2 7	7 0	9 4	Moderate	1 0	Poor	6 6	Very	7 (>400)	Severe
Uttar Pradesh	Muzaffa rnagar	4 6	8 6	1 1	(101-200)	3 9	(201-300)	4 1	(301-400)	2 1	(>400)
Uttar Pradesh	Noida	4 0	7 0	1 3	(51-100)	3 0	(101-200)	0 7	(201-300)	8 1	(>400)

Annexure- II

Details of release and utilization of funds to cities in Delhi-NCR under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

Sl.No	City	Fund released (in Rs. crore)							Fund utilised (in Rs. crore)							
		FY 19- 20	FY 20-21	FY 21- 22	FY 22- 23	FY 23- 24	FY 24-25	Total	FY 25- 26*	FY 20- 21	FY 21- 22	FY 22- 23	FY 23- 24	FY 24- 25	FY 25- 26	Total
1.	Delhi	-	0.00	11.25	22.50	8.94	38.67	81.36	18.41	-	-	7.55	5.20	1.35	-	14.10
2.	Noida	-	0.00	6.67	15.28	8.94	24.81	55.70	45.08	-	-	-	1.43	2.01	26.54	29.98
3.	Alwar	0.06	1.90	-	7.66	12.27	3.51	25.40	17.87	-	0.04	1.65	5.20	9.94	5.11	21.94
4.	Meerut	-	72.00	13.59	53.60	14.43	34.37	187.99	-	6.93	20.67	23.12	67.13	35.13	7.67	160.65
5.	Faridabad	-	48.00	6.25	19.28	-	33.61	107.14	31.83	0.00	6.05	6.35	16.56	15.12	5.79	49.87
6.	Ghaziabad	-	121.00	15.25	-	17.17	104.47	257.89	17.69	0.00	39.79	34.64	58.12	15.72	70.66	218.93
Total fund released							715.48	130.88	Total fund utilised							495.47

*Funds allocated for FY 2025-26.