

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



CAQM invokes Stage-I of GRAP across Delhi-NCR as AQI enters 'Poor' category

Posted On: 19 MAY 2026 7:35PM by PIB Delhi

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday invoked Stage-I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the National Capital Region (NCR) with immediate effect after Delhi's daily average Air Quality Index (AQI) rose to 208, falling in the 'Poor' category.

The decision was taken by the CAQM Sub-Committee on GRAP following a review of the current air quality scenario in Delhi-NCR and forecasts by IMD/IITM indicating that air quality is likely to remain in the 'Poor' category in the coming days.

The Sub-Committee noted that Delhi's AQI has shown an increasing trend and recorded 208 ('Poor' Category) on 19.05.2026, as per the daily AQI Bulletin provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Accordingly, the Sub-Committee decided to invoke all actions under Stage-I of the extant GRAP with immediate effect across the entire NCR. The 31-point action plan includes measures to be implemented and ensured by various agencies, including Pollution Control Boards of NCR States and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC). These steps are:

1. Ensure proper implementation of Directions/ Rules/ guidelines on dust mitigation measures in Construction and Demolition (C&D) activities and sound environmental management of C&D waste.
2. Ensure strict compliance of Direction Nos. 11-18 dated 11.06.2021 and do not permit C&D activities in respect of such projects with plot size equal to or more than 500 sqm which are not registered on the 'web portal' of the respective state / GNCTD and / or which do not fulfil the other requirements as per the above noted statutory directions, for remote monitoring of dust mitigation measures.
3. Ensure regular lifting of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste, and Hazardous wastes from dedicated dump sites and ensure that no waste is dumped illegally in open land areas.
4. Carry out periodic mechanized sweeping and water sprinkling on roads and ensure scientific disposal of the dust collected in designated sites/ landfills.

5. Ensure that C&D materials & waste are properly stored/ contained, duly covered in the premises. Ensure transportation of C&D materials and C&D waste only through covered vehicles.
6. Strictly enforce the Statutory directions and yardsticks for use of anti-smog guns at C&D sites, in proportion to the total built-up area of the project under construction.
7. Intensify use of anti-smog guns, water sprinkling and dust suppression measures in road construction / widening / repair projects and maintenance activities.
8. Stringently enforce prohibition on open burning of bio-mass and municipal solid waste. Impose maximum EC upon violations in accordance with Hon'ble NGT's orders dated 04.12.2014 and 28.04.2015 in OA 21/2014.
9. Strict vigil to ensure that there are no burning incidents in the landfill sites/ dumpsites.
10. Deploy traffic police for smooth traffic flow at all identified corridors with heavy traffic and congestion prone intersections.
11. Strict vigilance and enforcement of PUC norms for vehicles.
12. No tolerance for visible emissions – Stop visibly polluting vehicles by impounding and/ or levying maximum penalty.
13. Strictly enforce the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on diversion of non- destined truck traffic for Delhi, through Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways.
14. Strictly enforce NGT / Hon'ble SC's order on overaged diesel / petrol vehicles and as per extant statutes.
15. Ensure strict penal/ legal action against non-compliant and illegal industrial units.
16. Stringently enforce all pollution control regulations in Industries, brick kilns and hot mix plants etc. - strict compliance of the prescribed standards of emissions.
17. Ensure that only approved fuels are used by the industries in NCR including in brick kilns and hot mix plants and enforce closure in case of violations, if any.
18. Stringently enforce emission norms in thermal power plants and strict actions be taken against non-compliance
19. Strictly enforce Hon'ble Courts / Tribunal orders regarding ban on firecrackers.
20. Ensure regular lifting and proper disposal of industrial waste from industrial and non-development areas.
21. DISCOMS to minimise power supply interruptions in NCR.
22. Ensure that diesel generator sets are not used as regular source of power supply.
23. Strictly enforce the extant ban on coal / firewood as fuel in Tandoors in Hotels, Restaurants and open eateries.
24. Ensure hotels, restaurants and open eateries use only electricity / gas-based / clean fuel - based appliances.

25. Information dissemination including through social media and bulk SMS etc. Mobile Apps to be used to inform people about the pollution levels, contact details of control room, enable them to report polluting activities / sources to the concerned authorities and inform them about actions that would be taken by Government.
26. Ensure quick actions for redressal of complaints on 311 APP, Green Delhi App, SAMEER App and other such social media platforms to curb polluting activities.
27. Encourage offices to start unified commute for employees to reduce traffic on road.
28. Ensure uninterrupted power supply to discourage use of alternate power Generating sets/ equipment (DG sets etc.).
29. Synchronize traffic movements and deploy adequate personnel at intersections / traffic congestion points for smooth flow of traffic.
30. Alert in newspapers / TV / radio to advise people about air pollution levels and Do's and Don'ts for minimizing polluting activities.
31. 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.

Actions under Stage-I of the extant GRAP shall be implemented, monitored and reviewed by all agencies concerned across NCR to ensure that AQI levels do not deteriorate further. All implementing agencies have been directed to keep strict vigil and intensify measures under the extant GRAP schedule. Citizens have also been requested to strictly adhere to the Citizen Charter under GRAP Stage-I.

The Sub-Committee further urged citizens of NCR to cooperate in implementation of GRAP and follow the measures mentioned in the Citizen Charter under Stage-I of the extant GRAP, including:

- Keep engines of your vehicles properly tuned.
- Maintain proper tyre pressure in vehicles.
- Keep PUC certificates of your vehicles up to date.
- Do not idle your vehicle, also turn off the engine at red lights.
- Prefer hybrid vehicles or EVs to control vehicular pollution.
- Do not litter / dispose wastes, garbage in open spaces.
- Report air polluting activities through 311 App, Green Delhi App, SAMEER App etc.
- Plant more trees.
- Celebrate festivals in an eco-friendly manner - avoid firecrackers.

The Sub-Committee shall continue to keep a close watch on the air quality scenario and review the situation from time to time for further appropriate decisions depending upon the air quality in Delhi and forecasts made by IMD/IITM.

The comprehensive schedule of the extant GRAP is available on the official website of the Commission at <https://caqm.nic.in/>.

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Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change



CAQM's 28th Full Commission Meeting reviews Key agenda items pertaining to Prevention and Control of Air Pollution in Delhi-NCR

Posted On: 15 MAY 2026 4:55PM by PIB Delhi

The 28th meeting of the full Commission of Air Quality Management in Delhi-NCR (CAQM) was held on 15.05.2026, under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Verma. Key agenda items pertaining to prevention and control of air pollution in Delhi-NCR were deliberated upon and reviewed in detail during the meeting.

The Commission approved issuance of Draft Direction No. 99 under Section 12 of the CAQM Act, 2021 regarding implementation of the Action Plan for prevention and control of paddy stubble burning in 2026 with a target of complete elimination of paddy stubble burning in the NCR States. The Commission noted that State Governments have prepared and updated State-specific Action Plans for the paddy harvest season-2026 in line with the broad framework provided by CAQM.

The Commission also approved issuance of Draft Direction No. 100 mandating registration of only Electric 3-Wheelers (Passenger and Goods) of L5 category in Delhi-NCR in a phased manner as part of sustained efforts towards cleaner mobility and reduction in vehicular emissions in the region. The Commission noted that the recent Report of Air Quality Experts identified the vehicular sector as one of the major contributors to PM_{2.5} emissions in Delhi-NCR and emphasized accelerated transition towards cleaner mobility. The Expert Committee constituted by the Commission in December, 2025 has also given interim report on 3 Wheelers recommending transition of 3-Wheelers to EV. The Commission accordingly mandated registration of only EV 3-wheelers of L5 category w.e.f. 01.01.2027 in Delhi, w.e.f. 01.01.2028 in adjoining High Vehicle Density (HVD) districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat, Ghaziabad, Gautam Buddha Nagar and w.e.f. 01.01.2029 in remaining Districts of NCR.

Further, Draft Direction No. 101 imposing restrictions on fuelling of vehicles without valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) in NCR was deliberated upon and approved by the Commission. The Direction envisages dispensing of fuel only upon production of valid PUCC w.e.f. 01.10.2026 in the entire NCR for controlling vehicular emissions contributing significantly to PM_{2.5}, NO_x and CO levels.

The Commission reviewed the sudden spikes in incidents of wheat stubble burning incidents and directed the concerned State Governments and agencies for strict enforcement. The Commission noted that from 01.04.2026 to 14.05.2026, a total of 8,986 incidents have been reported in Punjab as

compared to 6,474 incidents recorded during the corresponding period of 2025, whereas Haryana reported 3,290 incidents during this period as compared to 1,503 incidents recorded during the corresponding period of 2025.

The Commission also reviewed the progress of strengthening of the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) network across Delhi-NCR. The Commission noted that under the revised norms, one monitoring station is envisaged per 25 sq. km. (5 km. x 5 km. grid) for Delhi and contiguous cities (Ghaziabad, Noida, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad, and Sonipat) and one station per 50 sq. km. in other district headquarters and cities. A total of 46 additional CAAQMS are proposed to be installed across Delhi-NCR (14 in Delhi, 16 in Haryana, 15 in Uttar Pradesh and 01 in Rajasthan), taking the total number of monitoring stations to 157. The Commission emphasized expeditious installation of the remaining stations by the concerned NCR States.

Reconstitution of the Sub-Committee on 'Monitoring and Identification' under Section 11(2) of the CAQM Act, 2021 was ratified by the Commission for further strengthening monitoring and compliance mechanisms in the region.

The Commission appreciated the initiatives undertaken by NCR State Governments and GNCTD for preparation and implementation of Annual Action Plans-2026 aimed at abatement of air pollution across various sectors including transport, industry, dust mitigation, waste management, crop residue management and enhanced air quality monitoring. The Commission also noted that a digital MIS portal is being developed by CAQM for monitoring implementation of actions under the Annual Action Plans.

The Commission also reviewed greening and plantation targets fixed for the year 2026-27 for NCR States and NCT of Delhi and stressed upon regular follow-up and effective implementation for achieving the stipulated targets. The Commission noted that an overall plantation target of about 4.60 crore trees, shrubs and bamboo plantations has been fixed for the year 2026-27 across NCR States, CAPFs and educational institutions (58.01 Lakh for Delhi, 1.71 Crore for Uttar Pradesh-NCR, 1.20 Crore for Haryana-NCR, 1.07 Crore for Rajasthan-NCR, 80,000 for CAPFs and 2.56 Lakh for Educational/Research Institutes/Universities & KVS).

Status of penalties imposed on Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) for non-achievement of biomass co-firing targets during 2024-25, along with appeals and conditional stay orders granted by the Hon'ble NGT, was also reviewed by the Commission. Environmental Compensation amounting to over Rs. 61.85 crore has been imposed on six non-compliant Thermal Power Plants under the Environment (Utilisation of Crop Residue by Thermal Power Plants) Rules, 2023.

The Commission took note of the extension of relaxation in the Standard List of Approved Fuels stipulated under Direction No. 65 dated 23.06.2022, as amended, allowing use of alternative fuels in industries till 13.06.2026 or until further orders.

The Commission also took note of the Order dated 12.03.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the M.C. Mehta Case regarding implementation of revised Environment Compensation Charge (ECC) on Goods Vehicles entering Delhi. The Commission noted that the recommendations submitted by CAQM for revision of ECC rates were approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court as reasonable, just and fair.

The Commission reviewed the GRAP orders issued since the last Full Commission meeting dated 20.02.2026 and was apprised of the invocation and revocation of different stages of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) based on prevailing air quality scenario in Delhi-NCR.

The framework for targeted Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities issued by CAQM on 03.03.2026 for NCR States and GNCTD for abatement of air pollution in Delhi-NCR was also reviewed by the Commission. The framework envisages sustained engagement with sector-specific stakeholders and intensified IEC campaigns throughout the year.

The Commission further reviewed the status of Enforcement Task Force (ETF) decisions, closures and resumption of industrial units for ensuring compliance with Statutory Directions and environmental norms. As on 08.05.2026, a total of 27,008 sites had been inspected by flying squads and closure directions have been issued in 1,779 cases across sectors including industries, C&D sites and miscellaneous categories.

CAQM reiterated the need for strict enforcement of directions issued and directed all concerned agencies and NCR State Governments to make concerted efforts for effective implementation of Annual Action Plans and sectoral actions for combating air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

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CAQM Enforcement Task Force reviews compliance status across NCR; 125 inspections carried out in 12 days

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The 131st meeting of the Enforcement Task Force (ETF) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) was held on 18.05.2026 to review enforcement actions, inspections and compliance status across the National Capital Region (NCR) for the reporting period from 29.04.2026 to 10.05.2026.

During the review, it was noted that a total of 125 inspections were carried out by the Flying Squads of the Commission during the 12-day reporting period, resulting in detection of 39 violations across Construction & Demolition (C&D) sites, industrial sector and Diesel Generator (DG) sets.

The inspections included 20 inspections across C&D sites, 51 inspections across industrial sector and 54 inspections related to DG sets. Out of the 39 violations reported, 10 pertained to C&D sites, 10 to industrial sector and 19 to DG set violations.

Based on the inspection reports for reported violations, closure of 07 units/projects, sealing of 13 DG sets, issuance of 12 Show Cause Notices (SCNs), imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) in 04 cases and issuance of advisory to units in 03 cases have been proposed. Out of the proposed enforcement actions, 06 actions have already been completed, while several other actions are under process.

The Task Force also reviewed actions taken pursuant to the 130th ETF meeting and noted that all actionable cases pertaining to industrial sector, C&D sector and DG sets have been acted upon by the concerned agencies. A total of 17 resumption orders have also been issued after verification of compliance, including 13 pertaining to industrial units and 04 related to C&D sites across NCR.

The ETF further reviewed the issue of road dust mitigation and took note of inspections carried out by NOIDA Authority on 08.05.2026 wherein 46 areas were inspected and 28 violations were reported. Show Cause Notices have been issued for repeat violations.

The Commission emphasized the need for timely submission of inspection reports by Flying Squad teams along with photographic/videographic evidence. Directions were also reiterated for verification of fuel details, DG set compliance under Direction No. 76 and compliance of Consent to Operate (CTO) conditions during inspections.

The updated cumulative enforcement status as on 18.05.2026 was also reviewed during the meeting. It was noted that a total of 27,133 units/projects/entities have been inspected so far by the Flying Squads of the Commission. Based on these inspections, 1,784 Closure Directions have been issued, out of which 1,382 Resumption Orders have been issued upon verification of compliance. Further, 123 cases have been transferred to the respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) for final decision, while 279 entities remain under examination.

The Commission reiterated the need for strengthened enforcement mechanisms, timely compliance verification, improved coordination among implementing agencies and strict adherence to environmental norms for effective abatement of air pollution across NCR. Continued focus was also laid on enhancing inspection efficiency, ensuring accountability and expediting enforcement actions in priority sectors including industrial emissions, DG sets, C&D activities and road dust management.

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