

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Sub-committee for operationalization of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)
October 28, 2021

Fourth meeting of the Sub-committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was convened on October 28, 2021 via video conferencing. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and chairperson of the Sub-committee. The list of participants is annexed (Annexure I).

The Sub-committee has been keeping a close eye on air quality in Delhi, and presently, we are in the Poor AQI category. However, input was requested from Dr. V.K. Soni, IMD who apprised that winds are North-Westerly until the morning of November 01, 2021 causing the possibility of air quality to reach in 'Very Poor' AQI category. It was also informed that minimum temperature is likely to drop to 14-15°C with increased moisture, which is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. In view of the above, as a preventive measure, and in view of upcoming festive season, following was deliberated:

1. Following actions under 'Very Poor' category, in addition to steps listed under 'Poor' to 'Moderate' AQI category should be implemented with immediate effect in Delhi-NCR:
 - a. Mechanical/vacuum-based sweeping of roads to be carried out daily.
 - b. Ensure water sprinkling along with use of dust suppressants (at least every alternate day) on roads to arrest road dust especially at hotspots, heavy traffic corridors, vulnerable areas (before peak hours) and proper disposal of dust collected in designated sites/landfills.
 - c. Regular inspection for strict enforcement of dust control measures must be ensured at construction sites.
 - d. Ensure uninterrupted power supply to discourage the use of Generator sets.
 - e. Stop use of diesel generator sets [except for emergency purposes (Annexure II)]
 - f. Enhance parking fee by 3-4 times
 - g. Increase bus and metro services by augmenting contract buses and increasing frequency of service
 - h. Stop use of coal/firewood in hotels and open eateries

2. Citizens to take actions to prevent air pollution, such as:
 - a. Residential Welfare Associations and individual house owners to provide electric heaters during winter to security staff to avoid open burning by them.
 - b. Keeping PUC certificates up to date.
 - c. Keeping engines of cars/ bikes/ scooters properly tuned.
 - d. Maintaining proper air pressure in tires of cars/ bikes/ scooters
 - e. Adherence to lane driving
 - f. Optimize use of private vehicles
 - g. Not disposing waste /garbage in the open spaces
 - h. Avoid dust generating construction activities during months of October to January, if possible.
 - i. Reporting air pollution activities through SAMEER App, social media platforms and other public grievance portals
3. States to disseminate information about air pollution levels and for creating awareness among citizens regarding steps to minimize air pollution.

It was informed that The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in its letter number Q-18011-13-2000-CPA (Vol-III), dated October 22, 2021 to Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Director, Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) requested CAQM to take necessary and appropriate actions/measures for improvement of air quality including implementation of GRAP, within the provision of CAQM Act, 2021 with intimation to Ministry and also submit inputs on progress made so far on air quality improvement in NCR and AA for submission to Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Sub-committee also felt and agreed that in order to bring in synergy and co-ordinated efforts, the convener of the Sub-committee for operationalization of GRAP may be from CAQM and implementation orders under GRAP to be issued by convener of Sub-committee from CAQM. Further, it was agreed that monitoring of actions taken under GRAP to be done by the Sub-committee of CAQM for "Safeguarding and Enforcement".

Meeting ended with thanks to chair and from chair.

List of Participants:

1. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board
2. Rajesh Kumar, Director, Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas
3. Dr. K.S. Jayachandran, Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
4. Sh. S. Narayanan, Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board
5. Vikram Parihar, CSO, Rajasthan Pollution Control Board
6. Dr. V.K. Soni, Scientist 'F', Indian Meteorological Department
7. Sh. Vivek Roy, CEO, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
8. Dr. Rajesh Garhia, Haryana State Pollution Control Board
9. Sh. P.K. Gupta, Scientist E, Central Pollution Control Board
10. Ms. Deuvshree Sharma, Central Pollution Control Board

Exceptions

Following essential services and activities, as an exception shall be out of the purview of the revised GRAP:

- a) Medical services (Hospital/ Nursing Home/ Health care facilities)
- b) Elevators/Escalators
- c) Railway services/ Railway stations
- d) Metro rail corporation services, including trains and stations
- e) Airports and Inter State Bus Terminals (ISBTs)
- f) Sewage treatment plants
- g) National security/ defense related activities.