

Minutes of the 7th meeting of the Sub-committee for operationalization of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)
November 12, 2021

Seventh meeting of the Sub-committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was convened on November 12, 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).

MS, CPCB briefed that AQI was in 'Severe' category and informed that pollution levels have crossed the threshold limit of PM₁₀ (500µg/m³) and PM_{2.5} (300µg/m³) in Delhi-NCR November 12, 2021 at 03.00 hours and 01.00 hours, respectively.

Dr. V.K. Soni was requested for inputs on meteorological forecast, who informed that meteorological conditions are highly unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants till November 18, 2021 due to low wind speed (North-westerly) and calm conditions during the night. It was also informed that during 14th to 17th November, winds will be calm even during the day. Dr. Soni further apprised that stubble contribution is likely to remain high due to North-westerly winds and increased stubble burning incidences.

MS, CPCB observed that, in view of unfavourable meteorology, stubble burning and poor dispersion resulting in accumulation of pollutants, the coming week is critical with regard to air quality in Delhi-NCR. Action Taken Report (ATR) is received on daily basis from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana Pollution Control Boards. These reports are awaited from Delhi Pollution Control Committee and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

Dr. T.K. Joshi, health expert, suggested that poor air quality can affect healthy people, and seriously impacts those with existing diseases especially when the AQI is in 'Severe' category.

After deliberation, the Sub-committee made the following decisions:

- 1) All actions under 'Severe' category as per Order dated November 08, 2021 to be continued stringently with more rigour (copy enclosed for ready reference).
- 2) Government and private offices and other establishments are advised to reduce vehicle usage by at least 30% (by working from home, car-pooling, and optimizing their field activities, etc.)
- 3) People are advised to limit outdoor activities and minimize their exposure.

- 4) Implementing agencies, at appropriate level, must closely monitor actions taken and submit daily report to concerned SPCBs /PCC, which will review and further submit reports to CAQM and CPCB.

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. Anand Mohan, Member Secretary, Rajasthan Pollution Control Board
5. Dr. V.K. Soni, Scientist 'F', Indian Meteorological Department
6. Dr. T.K. Joshi, Health Expert
7. Sh. Vivek Roy, CEO, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
8. Sh. Nipun Gupta, Haryana State Pollution Control Board
9. Sh. P.K. Gupta, Scientist E, Central Pollution Control Board
10. Sh. Sharandeep Singh, Scientist D, Central Pollution Control Board
11. Ms. Deuvshree Sharma, Central Pollution Control Board