

GRAP 4 Implemented Amid Pollution In Delhi | What Are Its Provisions ?

Why In News

- The **Commission for Air Quality Management** has decided to invoke the **fourth stage of the anti-pollution GRAP** regime in Delhi and surrounding areas after the air quality index plummeted to 'severe' levels.
- Apart from the provisions of the fourth stage, provisions of **stages 1, 2 and 3** will remain effective in the national capital region.



Reason

- Over the last few years, Delhi and its surrounding areas have been subject to **hazardous smog**, that coincides with the winter months rolling in.
- There are a variety of factors that contribute to the deteriorating air quality in Delhi.
- Smoke from farmers burning crop stubble, vehicle exhaust and factory emissions combine to form a toxic concoction that remains stranded in the lower part of the atmosphere during the winter season.
- Out of this, two causes have largely grabbed the limelight: stubble burning and Delhi's cold temperature.



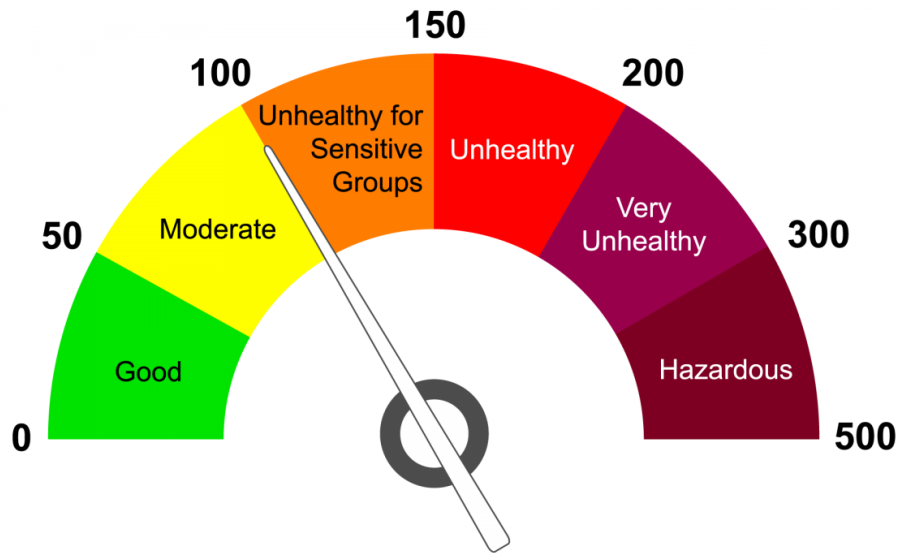
What Is The Graded Response Action Plan

- GRAP is a set of **emergency measures** that kick in to prevent further deterioration of **air quality once it reaches a certain threshold** in the Delhi-NCR region.
- Approved by the **Supreme Court in 2016 and notified in 2017**, the plan was formulated after several meetings that the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority held with state government representatives and experts.
- The result was a plan that **institutionalised measures** to be taken when air quality deteriorates.



- GRAP is incremental in nature and thus, when the **air quality dips from 'poor' to 'very poor,'** measures listed under both sections have to be followed. Stage 1 of GRAP is activated when the AQI is in the 'poor' category (201 to 300), Stage 2 is

when it's in the 'Very poor' category (301-400), Stage 3 is when the AQI is the 'Severe' category (401-450) and finally Stage 4 is when it rises to the 'Severe +' category (more than 450).



Stages Of GRAP

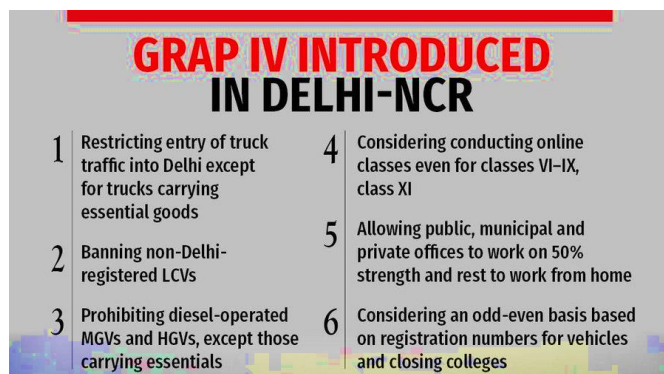
Fight against pollution

A look into the city's Graded Response Action Plan to fight air pollution

<p>STAGE 1 MODERATE-TO-POOR QUALITY AIR (PM_{2.5} above 61µg/m³ or PM₁₀ above 101µg/m³)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mechanized sweeping, washing roads with water ● Enforcing ban on firecrackers, increased scrutiny of vehicles for pollution standards 	<p>STAGE 2 VERY POOR AIR (PM_{2.5} above 121 µg/m³ or PM₁₀ above 351 µg/m³)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ban on diesel generators ● Parking fee to surge by 3-4 times ● Stop use of coal/firewood in eateries ● Urge people with respiratory or cardiac problems to stay inside 	<p>STAGE 4 EMERGENCY (also known as severe+) (PM_{2.5} above 300 µg/m³ or PM₁₀ above 500 µg/m³)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ban entry of trucks (except for essential items) ● Halt construction work ● Begin odd-even road scheme for private vehicles
	<p>STAGE 3 SEVERELY POLLUTED AIR (PM_{2.5} above 250µg/m³ or PM₁₀ above 430µg/m³)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase frequency of road cleaning and washing ● Shut down of brick kilns ● Restrictions on operation of coal-based power plants in NCR 	

8 Point Action Plan For Stage-IV Of GRAP

- **Restrict entry of truck traffic** into Delhi, with exceptions for trucks carrying essential goods/services and all LNG/CNG/electric trucks.
- Do not allow **non-Delhi-registered LCVs**, except EVs/CNG/BS-VI diesel vehicles, into Delhi, except those carrying essential goods/services.
- **Prohibit diesel-operated Medium Goods Vehicles** and Heavy Goods Vehicles registered in Delhi, except those transporting essential goods/services.



- **Halt construction** and demolition activities in linear public projects like highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission, pipelines, etc.
- Consider conducting lessons for classes VI-IX, class XI **online instead of physical classes**.
- Allow public, municipal, and private offices to operate at **50 per cent strength, with the rest working from home**.



- Central Government to decide on **permitting work from home** for employees in Central Government offices.
- State Governments to explore emergency measures such as closing colleges/educational institutions and implementing **odd-even vehicle registration number**-based restrictions for non-essential commercial activities.