

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
6th Level, C-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002

F. No.10 (39)/ENV/2021/ 5876

Dated: 23-11-2023

Subject: Directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to discontinue or close Schools, Colleges, Educational Institutes, non-emergency commercial activities, and work from home (50% strength) upon invoking of Stage III (Severe) and Stage IV (Severe+) under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi.

Whereas, Delhi faces grave air pollution particularly in winter season and level of pollutants like Particulate Matter Concentration (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) goes much beyond the prescribed standards for Ambient Air Quality.

And whereas, the whole Union Territory of Delhi has been declared as an Air Pollution Control area, under the sub section (1) of section 19 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide notification no. GSR 106 (E) dated 20.02.1987.

And whereas, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas has repeatedly taken up the matter relating to air pollution with Government of NCT of Delhi and various organizations and has issued various Directions, Advisories and Orders for effective implementation of measures for abating air pollution in NCR from time to time.

And whereas, the Commission For Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, in exercise of its powers conferred upon it under section 12 of Commission For Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act 2021 has issued Direction No. 75 containing revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on 27.07.2023 vide Direction no. 75, which defines four stages of adverse air quality in Delhi viz. Stage I-Poor (AQI 201-300), Stage II-Very Poor AQI (301-400), Stage III-Severe (AQI 401-450), and Stage IV-Severe+ (AQI > 450) respectively, thereafter followed by its amendment vide Direction No. 77 vide dt 06.10.2023.

And whereas, CAQM vide its direction no. 75 read with direction no. 77 suggested the state governments in NCR and GNCTD to consider certain measures during the invoking of Stage III 'Severe' and of Stage IV (Severe+) Air Quality.

And whereas, air pollution affects severely the health of citizens and research has shown that vulnerable population especially children are more susceptible to diseases occurring due to severe air pollution including respiratory problems and cutaneous diseases.

And whereas, air pollution levels are generally very poor and ambient air quality of the City is getting severe during November with the ongoing paddy harvesting season and festivities, the following directions are hereby being issued to prepare in advance for the upcoming deteriorating air quality days.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 read with notification No.SO667 (E) issued by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India dated 10.09.1992, following directions are hereby issued whenever Stage III (Severe) and Stage IV (Severe+) under GRAP are invoked by the Commission For Air Quality in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas:

1. When GRAP Stage III- Severe air quality gets activated;

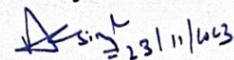
The physical classes in schools for children up to Class V is to be discontinued and classes to be continued in an online mode.

2. When GRAP Stage IV- Severe+ air quality gets activated;

- i. The physical classes for all classes upto class IX and class XI is to be discontinued and classes to be conducted in an online mode.
- ii. All the public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home.
- iii. All colleges/educational institutions and non-emergency commercial activities to be closed.

All authorities concerned shall implement the aforesaid directions in letter and spirit. The violation of the directions issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or the rules made there under shall be punishable under Section 15 of the said Act.

By order and in the name of the
Lieutenant Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi



(A. K. Singh)
Pr. Secretary (Environment)

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Copy for compliance to:

1. Commissioner, Delhi Police.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, General Administration Department, GNCTD
3. Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Department, GNCTD
4. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council.
5. Divisional Commissioner, Department of Revenue, GNCTD.
6. Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
7. Commissioner, Department of Industries, GNCTD.
8. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority.
9. Commissioner, MCD, Delhi.
10. Secretary, Education Department, GNCTD.
11. CEO, Delhi Cant. Board.

12. Director(HE), Directorate Of Higher Education, GNCTD.

Copy To:

1. Member Secretary, Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, STC Building, New Delhi.
2. S.O. to Chief Secretary, GNCTD
3. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister, Environment, GNCTD