CAQM

GRAP Stage III in Delhi-NCR, invoked at AQI 382, revoked November 17

CAQM revoked its November 6, 2026 Stage III order on November 17, 2026, with Delhi's AQI at 204. Stages I and II remain invoked.

THE COMMISSION FOR AIR Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) invoked all actions under Stage III ('Severe' air quality, Delhi AQI 401 to 450) of its Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, with immediate effect. The order, No. 120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM, is dated November 6, 2026 and signed by R. K. Agrawal, Director (Technical) and Member Convenor of the Sub-Committee on GRAP. Stage III ran in addition to the Stage I and II actions already in force under orders of October 21, 2026 and November 2, 2026.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

CAQM

PUBLISHED

November 6, 2026

ISSUED BY

Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Sub-Committee on GRAP)

DOCUMENT

Order No. 120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM

GRAP Stage III in Delhi-NCR, invoked at AQI 382, revoked November 17

CAQM · November 6, 2026

The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) invoked all actions under Stage III ('Severe' air quality, Delhi AQI 401 to 450) of its Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, with immediate effect. The order, No. 120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM, is dated November 6, 2026 and signed by R. K. Agrawal, Director (Technical) and Member Convenor of the Sub-Committee on GRAP. Stage III ran in addition to the Stage I and II actions already in force under orders of October 21, 2026 and November 2, 2026.

CAQM revoked Stage III on November 17, 2026. Order No. 120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM of that date, signed by R. K. Agrawal, says the Sub-Committee on GRAP met that day, recorded Delhi's AQI at 204 with an "improving trend", and noted the IMD/IITM forecast that the AQI is likely to remain in the 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' category in coming days. It revoked the order of November 6, 2026 with immediate effect. Actions under Stages I and II "shall, however, remain invoked" under the modified GRAP of September 29, 2026, and all implementing agencies shall keep strict vigil and especially intensify those measures.

CAQM's order of October 30, 2026 restricting dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction across the NCR, barring exempted projects, and directing State Government and private offices in the NCT of Delhi and nearby districts to operate with up to 50% of staff attending physically, for November 5 to 20, continues in force. Construction and demolition sites issued specific closure orders for violations shall not resume operations under any circumstances without a specific order from the Commission. Citizens are requested to strictly adhere to the citizen charter under Stages I and II. The paragraphs below describe Stage III as it applied from November 6, 2026.

The Sub-Committee on GRAP met on November 6, 2026. It recorded Delhi's AQI for the day at 382 ('Very Poor'), blamed poor dispersion of pollutants in unfavorable weather, and noted that IMD and IITM forecasts show the AQI slipping into the 'Severe' category in the coming days. It acted to prevent further deterioration. The actions follow the revised GRAP schedule CAQM issued on September 29, 2026, which is enclosed with the order.

Construction and demolition work that raises dust is restricted across the entire NCR. That covers earthwork, boring and drilling, piling, all demolition, open-trench sewer, water, drainage and cable laying, brick and masonry work, RMC batching plants, major welding and gas cutting, painting, polishing and varnishing, cement, plaster and other coatings, cutting and fixing of tiles, stones and flooring, road construction and major repairs, transfer, loading and unloading of dust-raising materials such as cement, fly ash, bricks and sand, and vehicles carrying construction material or C&D waste on unpaved roads. Minor welding for mechanical, electrical and plumbing work, minor indoor repairs and the repair of potholes stay allowed. Less polluting construction work may continue under the C&D Waste Management Rules and CAQM's dust norms.

All C&D work, including the restricted kinds, may continue on some projects, subject to the same rules: railway and metro services and stations, airports and inter-state bus terminals, national security, defense and projects of national importance, hospitals and health care facilities, linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, power lines, pipelines and telecom, sanitation and water supply projects, and ancillary work for these.

Stone crushers and all mining and associated activities must close across the entire NCR. The NCR states and the Delhi government must strictly restrict BS III petrol and BS IV diesel (or older) four-wheel light motor vehicles in Delhi and in Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budha Nagar; persons with disabilities may still use such vehicles if they're adapted for them and run only for their personal use. The Delhi government must strictly restrict Delhi-registered diesel BS IV and older medium goods vehicles in Delhi, and must not let diesel BS IV and older medium and light goods vehicles registered outside Delhi enter the city.

Schools in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar must hold classes up to Class V in 'Hybrid' mode, physical and online, wherever online teaching is feasible; students and guardians choose the online option. Other NCR areas may do the same. The NCR states and Delhi are to decide whether public, municipal and private offices work at 50% strength with the rest working from home, and the Central Government may decide on work from home for its own staff. The Sub-Committee will keep reviewing the air quality and IMD/IITM forecasts for further decisions.

Issued by	Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Sub-Committee on GRAP)
Document	Order No. 120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM
Dated	November 6, 2026
Takes effect	Immediately
Stage	Stage III, 'Severe' air quality (Delhi AQI 401 to 450), in addition to Stages I and II
Delhi AQI recorded	382 ('Very Poor') for November 6, 2026
Schedule	Revised GRAP schedule of September 29, 2026
Stages I and II	In force under orders of October 21, 2026 and November 2, 2026
Applies to	Delhi and the entire NCR; vehicle and school measures name Delhi and set NCR districts
Revoked	November 17, 2026, with immediate effect, by Order No. 120017/27/GRAP/2021/CAQM; Delhi AQI 204 that day

Still in force after revocation	Stages I and II under the modified GRAP of September 29, 2026; CAQM's October 30, 2026 order on dust-generating demolition and outdoor construction and up to 50% physical office attendance, November 5 to 20
Signed by	R. K. Agrawal, Director (Technical), Member Convenor of the Sub-Committee on GRAP

Stage III actions in the GRAP schedule

Action	Who carries it out
Strict restrictions on dust-raising construction and demolition work in the entire NCR, with listed exceptions	NCR state governments and GNCTD, CPCB, DPCC and state pollution control boards, urban local bodies, construction agencies and plot owners
Close down stone crushers in the entire NCR	Delhi Police and NCR police chiefs, District Magistrates, pollution control boards
Close down all mining and associated activities in the entire NCR	Delhi Police and NCR police chiefs, District Magistrates
Strict restrictions on BS III petrol and BS IV diesel or older four-wheel LMVs in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budha Nagar	NCR state governments and GNCTD, transport commissioners, traffic police
Strict restrictions on Delhi-registered diesel BS IV or older medium goods vehicles in Delhi	NCR state governments and GNCTD, transport commissioners, traffic police
No entry into Delhi for diesel BS IV or older medium goods vehicles registered outside Delhi	NCR state governments and GNCTD, transport commissioners, urban local bodies, traffic police
No entry into Delhi for diesel BS IV or older light goods vehicles registered outside Delhi	NCR state governments and GNCTD, transport commissioners, urban local bodies, traffic police
Hybrid classes up to Class V in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar; other NCR areas may follow	NCR state governments and GNCTD
Decide on public, municipal and private offices working at 50% strength, the rest from home	NCR state governments and GNCTD
Decide on work from home in Central Government offices	Central Government (DoPT)

The order (PDF, 4.0 MB)

Source: CAQM's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on November 12, 2026.

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

Read online: indusdesk.com/caqm/insights/grap-stage-iii-invoked-in-delhi-ncr-as-aqi-reaches-382/