

## GS III

SYLLABUS: ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DEGRADATION.

### GRAP

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "Air pollution in Delhi demands a serious, immediate response."

#### Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- GRAP is an **emergency response mechanism** based on Delhi's Air Quality Index level.
- Plan is framed as per **Supreme Court's order of 2016**.
- GRAP is being **implemented by the CAQM**.
- Under GRAP NCR air quality has been classified as **four different stages**: Poor, Very Poor, Severe, Severe+.

#### Stage in GRAP:

**Stage 1: 'Poor'**  
**AQI: 201-300.**

- Strictly enforce NGT / Hon'ble SC's order** on overaged diesel / petrol vehicles and as per extant statutes.
- Implementing rules on **dust mitigation measures** in construction and demolition activities.
- Regular lifting of **Municipal Solid Waste, hazardous waste** etc.
- intensify use of anti-smog guns, water sprinkling** and dust suppression measures.

**Stage 2: 'Very Poor'**  
**AQI: 301-400.**

- Ensure focused action** to reduce air pollution in **all identified hotspots in NCR**.
- Strengthen remedial measures** for the sectors causing the most adverse air quality in each hotspot.
- Ensure water **sprinkling along with the use of dust suppressants** (at least every alternate day).

**Stage 3: 'Severe'**  
**AQI: 401-450.**

- Strictly restrict** the use of **BS III petrol and BS IV diesel 4-wheelers in Delhi** and nearby districts like Gurugram, Faridabad, etc.
- Switch from **physical to online classes for children up to Class V**.
- Strict ban** on the various categories of **dust generating/ air pollution**.

**Stage 4: 'Severe +'**  
**AQI: >450.**

- Only EVs, CNG, or BS-VI diesel registered outside Delhi may enter Delhi**, except for essentials or services.
- Switch from **physical to online classes up to Class XI**.
- Emergency measures** include **closing colleges and educational institutions, and non-emergency commercial activities**.
- Permitting **vehicles to run on odd-even registration number** basis.

#### Major Implementing agencies:

- State Governments in NCR and GNCTD.
- Central and State pollution control agencies CPCB, SPCB.
- Local bodies.
- Land and construction owing agencies.

## ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

### AIR POLLUTION

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "Air pollution in Delhi demands a serious, immediate response."

#### Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR (CAQM):

- A **Statutory body** under the **NCR & Adjoining Areas Act 2021**.
- This body frames GRAP** (Graded Response Action Plan).
- No powers to punish activities related pollution.

#### Multiple reasons for winter Air pollution in Delhi:

- Slow wind speed, **temperature inversion** (traps pollutants).
- Bursting of firecrackers, **Stubble burning**.
- Emissions from vehicles**, coal-based power plants, brick kilns etc.
- Household sources, **dust (Roads, construction activities)**.
- Of all, **stubble burning** in Punjab and Haryana is **responsible for ~40% of the pollution** during October and November.
- In November 2024, **Air pollution in Delhi was 17 times WHO's limit**. Few areas in NCR **reached an AQI of 1700**.

#### National Clean Air Programme:

- Launched by **MoEFCC** in 2019.
- Implementation:** by CPCB under **Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act 1981**.
- 131 Non Attainment Cities:** **cities that exceed the NAAQS for 5 consecutive years**. They are identified by CPCB.
- Aims to **reduce PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations** to 40% by 2025-26.
- PRANA** (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non Attainment Cities) to monitor the implementation of NCAP.

#### National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):

- Air Act 1981** mandated CPCB to set standards for air quality.
- In 1982 **CPCB notified standards for following pollutants** (revised with time).
  - SOx, NOx, PM 2.5 & 10, Ozone, Lead, Cobalt, Arsenic, Nickel, Benzene, Benzopyrene, Ammonia.

#### CPCB:

- Statutory body** created under **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974**.
- Also entrusted with powers and functions under the **Air Act, 1981**.
- Works under **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change**.
- Advices** Central govt., on water & air pollution.

#### Powers of Board:

- Has **nationwide jurisdiction** but works in coordination with **State Pollution Control Boards**.
- Advices, coordinates & technical assistance for prevention of water pollution.
- Amended in 1977:** imposes **"Cess"** on industries.
- Power to **punish, fine & imprisonment**.

#### Functions:

- Setting standards for notified pollutants under **National Ambient Air Quality Standards** for air quality.

- Sets environment criteria for products under **Ecomark scheme**.
- Monitors the usage of **single-use plastics**.

#### Initiatives by CPCB:

- **Comprehensive Pollution Index**: ranks industrial clusters based on the level of environmental pollution they cause.
- **National Air Quality Monitoring Program (NAMP)**: Monitors ambient air quality at various locations across India.
- **National Water Quality Monitoring Program (NWMP)**: Monitors water quality at different rivers, lakes and water bodies.
- **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**: dealing with severe air pollution levels in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**: to reduce PM10 & PM 2.5 by 20-30% by 2024.

#### Note:

- **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** acts as a nodal agency to **control air pollution from vehicles** under **Motor Vehicle Act 1988**.

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## MAPPING

PRE-CONTEXT

### BALTIC SEA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 16.

**News:** "Second Baltic Sea telecom cable damaged, says Sweden."

- **Countries bordering the Baltic Sea**: Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Poland, Germany, Denmark.

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## ENVIRONMENT

PRE-CONTEXT

### EU'S CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT

#### MECHANISM

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 9.

**News:** "How India could counter the CBAM."

#### About EU-CBAM:

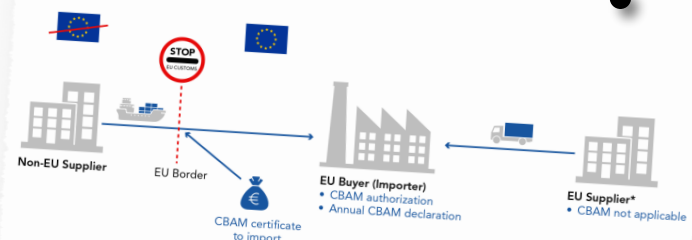
- The CBAM is like a **carbon tax for imported goods**, making sure they cost the same as EU-made products.
- **EU industries invest in technology to maintain high environmental standards**, leading to higher production costs compared to countries with less stringent emission norms.
- **This reduces the demand for EU-made products** in markets due to their high cost.
- **CABM ensures level playing field by imposing tax** on imported goods, making sure they cost the same as EU-made products.
- CBAM is **not applicable to goods originating from the EU**.
- **Exporters must disclose the quantity and emissions of their goods** and purchase corresponding certificates.

#### Significant risks to India's international trade.

- The **EU accounts for 20% of India's total merchandise exports**, with 25% affected by CBAM.
- **India, at COP29 Baku, opined CBAM is 'discriminatory'.**
- **BASIC countries** (Brazil, South Africa, India, and China), opined **CBAM overlooks the "differentiated responsibility"** under climate architecture
- i.e., Common But Differentiated Responsibilities.

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EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism simplified illustration



\* Including goods originating from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland  
Source: The Conference Board, 2022

**Thank you!**