

Clean Air Action Plan for Cuttack

The NCAP Status

This policy tracker aims to record air pollution trends and utilize the data in India to paint a picture of the hazards related to air pollution



What is NCAP?

The central government formulated and launched **National Clean Air Programme on 10 January 2019** to reduce particulate matter concentration in cities that do not match the **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)** set by the World Health Organization (WHO). This tracker aims to control air pollution nationwide through a collaborative approach involving ministers, state governments, local bodies, and stakeholders for the agenda (NCAP, CPCB).





Why is Cuttack under NCAP?

(OSPCB, 2021)

- Cuttack is identified as one of the non-attainment cities of Odisha.
- The main sources of air pollution in Cuttack are vehicular emissions, industrial emissions, and open burning of solid waste.
- A study conducted by the OSPCB in 2019 found that particulate matter (PM) levels in Cuttack were significantly higher than the national standards, with PM_{2.5} levels being the highest.
- The ambient air quality does not meet NAAQS with respect to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.
- There are only 3 manual monitoring stations in Cuttack.
- The manual stations do not monitor all the criteria pollutants as set by the NAAQS.
- Air quality data for Cuttack is not available before 2014, as a result, it is not possible to assess the real-time daily trend that is needed for GRAP implementation.
- The government of Odisha has taken some measures to curb air pollution in Cuttack, including the implementation of graded response action plans, increasing green coverage, and promoting public transportation. However, more needs to be done to address the issue effectively.

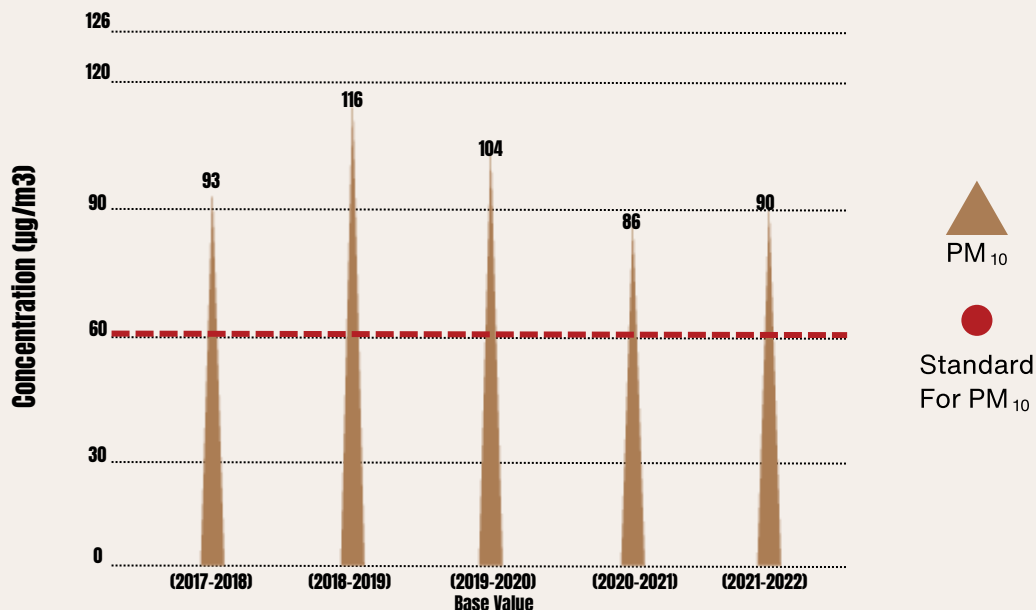


Figure: PM₁₀ trend of Cuttack since 2017

Source of Image: National Clean Air Programme, Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India

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Monetary aid by the government under the wings of NCAP

The Central government has released a total of **₹74.48 crores** for the development of NCAP in Odisha during 2021-2022, where **₹27.61 crores** are solely reserved for the city of Cuttack (PRANA, CPCB, 2022).

The action plan to abate air pollution in Cuttack

- Two real-time monitoring stations are to be set up in Cuttack (Clean Air Action Plan, Cuttack, 2018).
- To implement a graded response action plan, it is important to develop the ability to forecast pollution. This will require monitoring weather data (Clean Air Action Plan, Cuttack, 2018).
- The OSPCB should conduct a source apportionment and emissions inventory study to identify the sources of pollution and quantify their emissions throughout the seasons (Clean Air Action Plan, Cuttack, 2018).
- A daily air quality public information dissemination system should be established based on the National Air Quality Index and health advisory (Clean Air Action Plan, Cuttack, 2018).
- In addition, the SPCB website should be developed to report daily and annual data for all pollutants and pollution forecasting, and local media should be used to spread information (Clean Air Action Plan, Cuttack, 2018).
- Research studies, including emission inventories, source apportionment, health impact studies, exposure impacts, carrying capacity assessment of air shed, regional impacts, hot spot assessments, and other relevant studies may be conducted to refine and improve the action plan (Clean Air Action Plan, Cuttack, 2018).
- In 2022, the target was revised to reduce PM pollution levels by 40% by 2026 (Urban Emissions, 2023).





Recommendations

- NCAP needs to be promoted on a larger scale to raise awareness about the boons of the programme.
- Modification of policies and setting up new CAAQMS monitoring stations are necessary.
- Non-government bodies and stakeholders need to be motivated to join hands with NCAP.

Way forward

- Acknowledgment of the worsening ambient air quality by the state government and stringent application of laws.
- Complying with the policies set by NCAP will help Cuttack to come out of the impending doom of air pollution.
- Increase awareness of the hazards of air pollution amongst the common public to aid the success of NCAP.

References

- Comprehensive Action Plan For Non-Attainment Cities In Odisha (Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, And Rourkela), Department-Wise Action Plan, 2021,
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<https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/#/clean-air-city/dashboard/>
- India National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Cities (2023), Urban Emissions,
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1846952>

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