

Clean Air Action Plan For Howrah

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 the 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 across the country through a collaborative approach involving ministers, state governments, local bodies, and stakeholders for the agenda (NCAP, WBPCB).



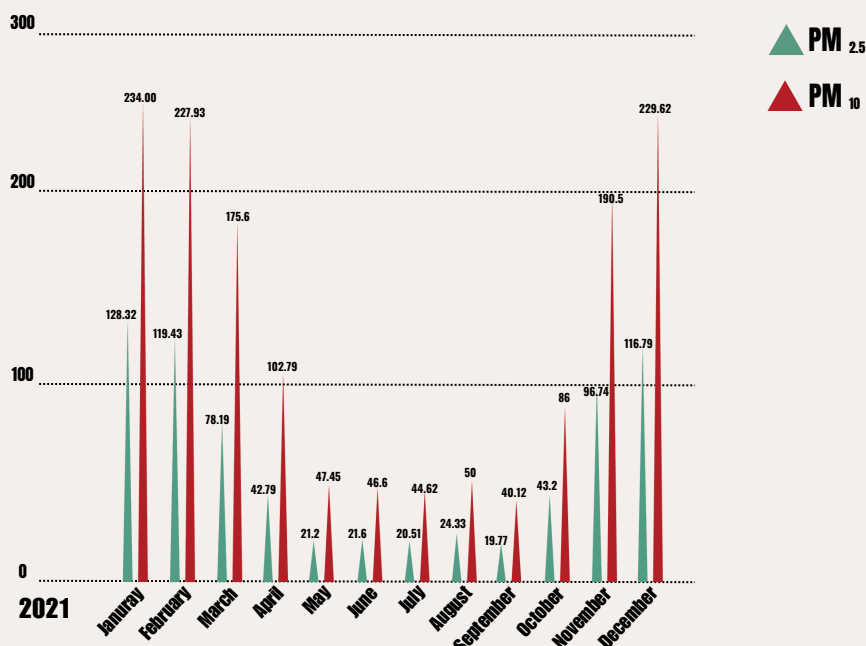


Why is Howrah under NCAP?

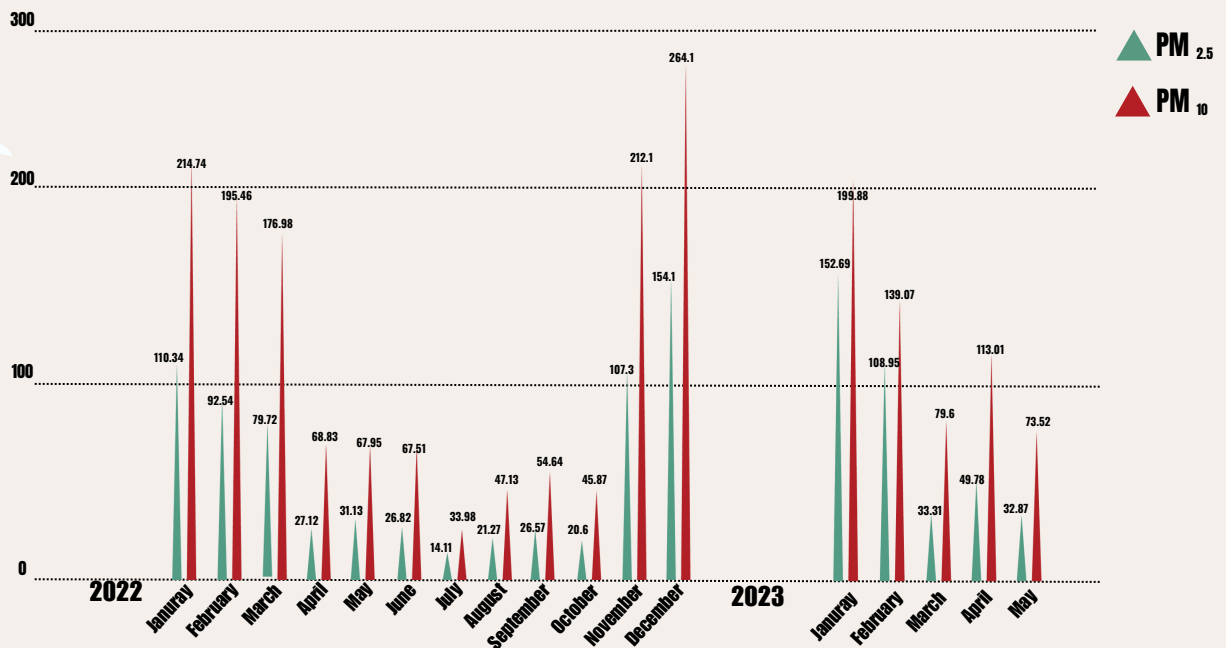
(Clean Air Action Plan- Howrah, WBPCB, 2020)

- Howrah's average annual PM₁₀ levels are on an upward trend, and the district must reduce PM₁₀ concentrations by 51% from the baseline to meet the annual standards.
- Howrah is a metalworking center. Howrah has a number of foundries, rolling, and smelters. The plant uses boilers and furnaces that are not regularly checked which leads to significant emissions.
- **MoEF&CC identified Howrah as a heavily polluted industrial area** with numerous foundries, rolling mills, metalworking and garment factories, and ceramics factories
- **13%** of the daily trips in the Howrah district are by **personal vehicles**.
- The **streets** of Howrah are **unplanned** in terms of street design elements. Howrah's roads **do not have adequate pedestrian areas**.
- Nearly **50%** of **urban and rural households** in Howrah do not have LPG or clean fuel connections.

Insights from the NCAP tracker 2021



Insights from the NCAP tracker (2022- May 2023)



Source of data: NCAP tracker- CAAQMS dashboard, Air quality trends,

<https://ncaptracker.in/caaqms-dashboard/>

West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Air Quality Information System, AQI bulletin,

<http://emis.wbpcb.gov.in/airquality/aqiBulletin.jsp>

The NCAP tracker records higher trends of pollutants (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) in winter months (November to February) as compared to summer and monsoon months.

Monetary aid by the government under the wings of NCAP

The Central government has released a total of ₹597.6 crores for the development of NCAP in West Bengal during 2021-2022, where ₹3.2 crores are solely reserved for Howrah (PRANA, CPCB, 2022).

₹19 crores have been used by the state government in aid until June 2022 (Press Information Bureau, 2022).

The action plan to abate air pollution in Howrah (Clean Air Action Plan- Howrah, WBPCB, 2020)

The plan integrates and builds on the state's current actions and each sector's action plans already existing. The Action Plan has also been improved based on best practices.

- Setting up a daily air quality public information dissemination system based on NAQI (National Air Quality Index) and health advisory.
- Source apportionment and emission inventory study to capture source-wise contribution and seasonal variations in source contribution.
- Assessment of regional impacts by setting up a mechanism to assess transboundary emissions.
- Rural air quality monitoring.
- Solid waste management of the city
- Phase-out of old vehicles and scrapping of end-of-life vehicles
- Controlling emissions from heavy-duty trucks
- Expansion of remote sensing monitoring for advanced emissions observation

- The proliferation of Electric vehicles
- Clean fuel strategy for industries
- Enforce emissions standards
- Promote renewable energy

Recommendations

- NCAP needs to be promoted on a larger scale to generate 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.
- Government-funded research programmes are needed to grasp a clear picture of the levels of pollution in Howrah. Most data available are obsolete.

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 Howrah to come out of the impending doom of air pollution.
- Increasing awareness of the hazards of air pollution amongst the common public to aid the success of NCAP.

Recommendations

- Clean Air Action Plan For Howrah, 2020, Report of the Joint Committee, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal,

<https://www.wbpcb.gov.in/files/Mo-02-2020-02-50-00CAP%20for%20Howrah.pdf>

- PRANA, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India,

<https://prana.cpcb.gov.in/#/clean-air-city/dashboard/>

- Press Information Bureau, Funds Allocated and Utilised Under National Clean Air Programme, Press release, (2022), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1846952>

- National Clean Air Programme, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Government of West Bengal

<https://www.wbpcb.gov.in/national-clean-air-programme>

- NCAP tracker- CAAQMS dashboard, Air quality trends,

<https://www.wbpcb.gov.in/national-clean-air-programme>

www.switchon.org.in      @SwitchONIndia 1A, D. L. Khan Road, Kolkata 700027

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