

Clean Air Action Plan for Kolkata

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*).

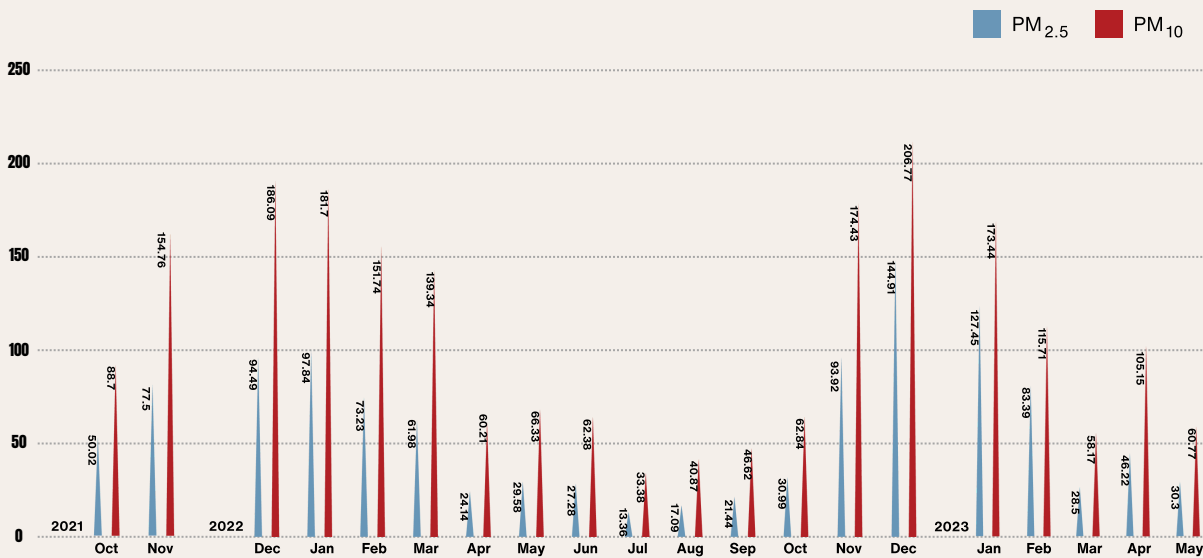




- Among the 10 most polluted cities (based on PM_{2.5}), Kolkata ranks second globally in the State of Global Air (HEI- SOGA) Report, 2022 (*Economic Times*, 2022).
- Cities that do not comply with the NAAQS set by WHO are tagged as “Non-attainment cities”.
- Kolkata is one of the non-attainment cities of West Bengal (NCAP tracker).

Insights from the NCAP tracker (Oct' 21-May' 23)

Kolkata PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ trend



Source of data: NCAP tracker- CAAQMS dashboard, Air quality trends, <https://ncaptracker.in/caaqms-dashboard/>

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 ₹536.5 crores are solely reserved for the city of Kolkata (*PRANA, CPCB, 2022*).

Guiding principles of NCAP Clean Air Action Plan 2020

- Achieving clean air is urgently required to protect public health, and well-being and increase productivity.
- Equitable, affordable, and innovative clean-air solutions need to be formulated.
- Substantial scientific knowledge and support are needed for air quality management.
- Clean air targets can be met with multi-sector action and a system-based approach.
- Maximizing air quality gains can be achieved via a regional-level approach.

The action plan to abate air pollution in Kolkata

This Clean Air Action Plan will leverage the West Bengal Government's 2016 Green Cities Mission. The components of this mission are:

- Strengthening air quality monitoring
- Identifying the sources of air pollution in the city
- Expansion of remote sensing monitoring for advanced emissions observation
- The proliferation of Electric vehicles

- Solid waste management of the city
- Phase-out of old vehicles and scrapping of end-of-life vehicles
- Controlling emissions from heavy-duty trucks
- Clean fuel strategy for industries
- Enforce emissions standards
- Promote renewable energy

Recommendations

- NCAP needs to be promoted on a larger scale to rise 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

- Acknowledgement of the worsening ambient air quality by the state government and stringent application of laws.
- Complying with the policies set by NCAP will help Kolkata 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

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