Clean Air Action Plan for Haldia
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*).
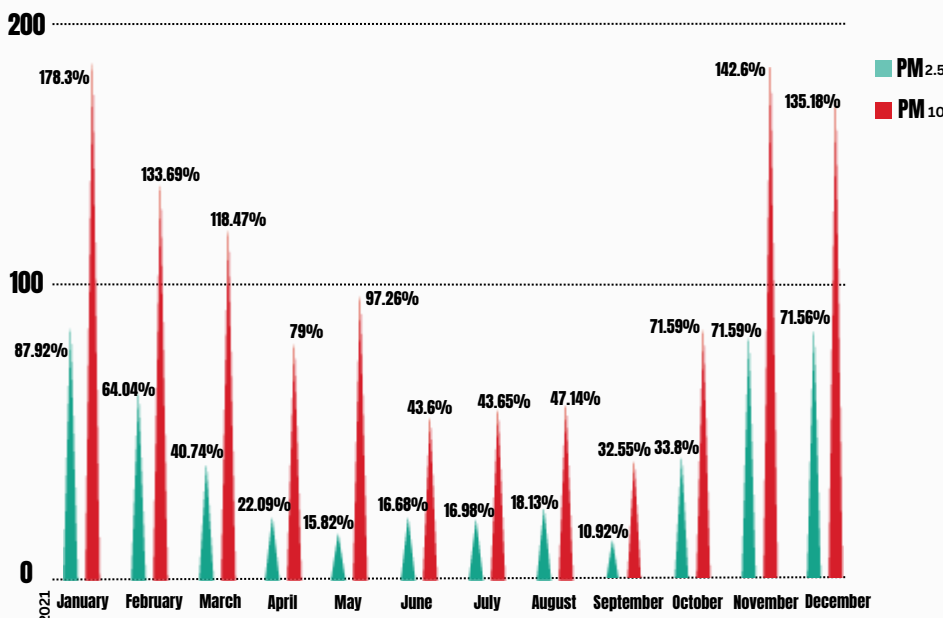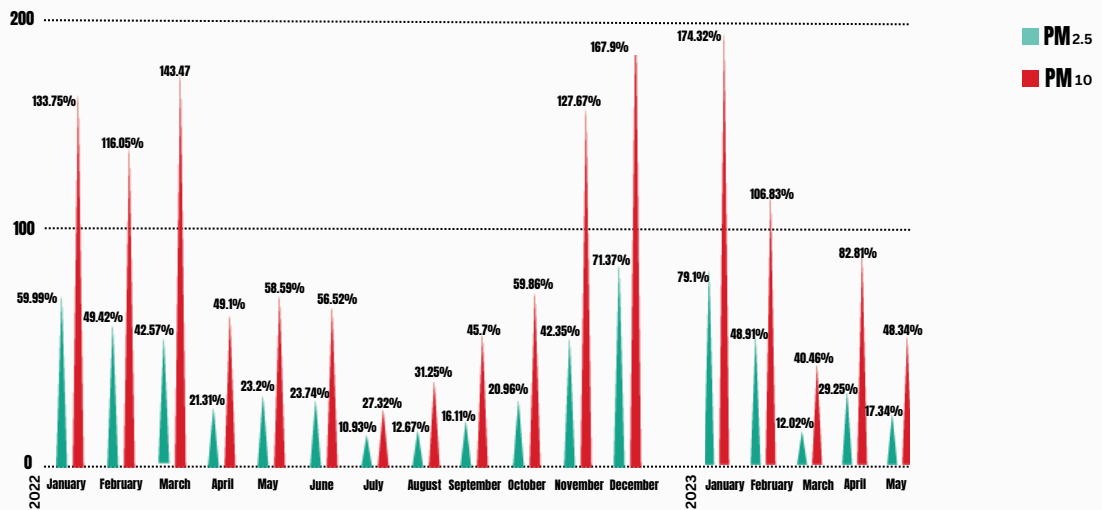
Why is Haldia under NCAP?

Clean Air Action Plan For Haldia, 2022

- Haldia is one of the non-attainment cities of West Bengal (*NCAP tracker*)

- There are four manual air quality monitoring stations and only one real-time station in Haldia.

- Real-time monitoring of the more harmful $PM_{2.5}$ is limited.

- According to the WBPCB, Haldia requires an approximate 40% reduction in PM_{10} concentrations to meet the annual standard.

- Long-term clean air planning strategies are needed to prevent public health emergencies resulting from exposure to high levels of pollution in Haldia.

- There are currently no formal studies of source distribution and source inventories to improve the accuracy of assessments of urban pollution profiles.

Insights from the NCAP tracker (2021)

Legend: $PM_{2.5}$, PM_{10}

Month	PM2.5	PM10
January	87.92%	178.3%
February	64.04%	133.69%
March	40.74%	118.47%
April	22.09%	79%
May	15.82%	97.26%
June	16.68%	43.6%
July	16.98%	43.65%
August	18.13%	47.14%
September	10.92%	32.55%
October	33.8%	71.59%
November	71.59%	142.6%
December	71.56%	135.18%

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Insights from the NCAP tracker (2022-May' 2023)

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 PM_{10}) 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 ₹4.47 crores are solely reserved for Haldia (*PRANA, CPCB, 2022*). ₹19 crores have been used by the state government in aid until June 2022 (*Press Information Bureau, 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 Haldia

(*Clean Air Action Plan For Haldia, 2022*)

- All twelve pollutants are to be monitored for Haldia, special focus is needed on $PM_{2.5}$ and ozone monitoring.
- Develop capacity for pollution forecasting for implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan.
- Set up a daily air quality public information dissemination system based on National Air Quality Index and health advisory.
- Performing distribution and publishing inventory surveys to capture resource and seasonal changes in air pollution.

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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 Haldia. 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 Haldia 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.

References

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

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