

Clean Air Action Plan for Ranchi

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).

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Why is Ranchi under NCAP?

After becoming the capital of Jharkhand, Ranchi experienced exponential growth in construction and demolition activity, an increase in vehicles, road encroachment, and industrial expansion, all of which combined to lead to air quality issues.

- Particulate matter concentrations in Ranchi have increased since 2006 (*Comprehensive Clean Air Action plan, 2021*).
- Ranchi only has two manual monitoring stations to date (*Comprehensive Clean Air Action plan, 2021*).
- The city consistently has high levels of PM₁₀, although the concentration of SO₂ and NO₂ is within the prescribed standards (*Comprehensive Clean Air Action plan, 2021*).
- There is a lack of consistent air quality data in Ranchi as there are gaps in data management of monitoring of pollution sources (*Comprehensive Clean Air Action plan, 2021*).

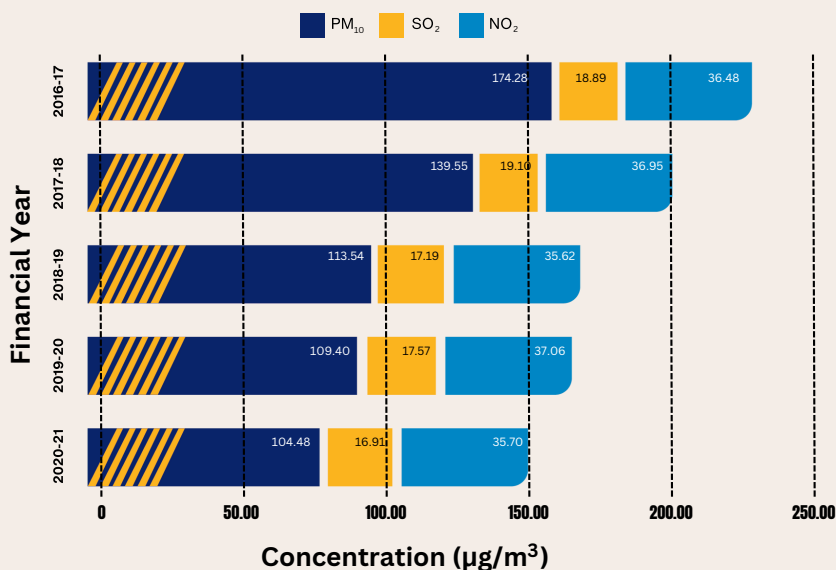


Figure: Trends of air pollutants in Ranchi in five years
Source: Clean Air Action Plan, <https://cpcb.nic.in/Actionplan/Ranchi.pdf>



Objectives of NCAP in Ranchi

- To ensure effective implementation of preventive measures, control, and abatement of air pollution.
- To carry out scientific studies of air pollution sources, identification of gaps, track hot spots, and prioritise actions to increase the effectiveness of mitigations.
- To augment and evolve an effective and proficient ambient air quality monitoring network across the city to ensure a comprehensive and reliable database.
- To augment public awareness and capacity-building measures encompassing data dissemination and outreach programmes for ensuring trained manpower and robust infrastructure on air pollution.
- To evaluate the impact of mitigation measures periodically to ensure the effectiveness and realignment of the mitigation strategies.

Monetary aid by the government under the wings of NCAP

The Central government has released a total of ₹159 crores for the development of NCAP in Jharkhand during 2021-2022, where ₹49 crores are solely reserved for Ranchi (*Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2022*).





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 for Ranchi.
- 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 Ranchi 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.

Recommendations

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

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

- Clean Air Action Plan For Ranchi 2022, Report of the Joint Committee, Department of Environment, Government of Jharkhand,

<https://cpcb.nic.in/Actionplan/Ranchi.pdf>

- Funds for NCAP, 4 APR 2022, PIB Delhi, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1813171>

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