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1 Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) (Source: The Hindu)

GRAP (Graded Response Action Plan) is a stage-wise emergency framework to control air pollution in Delhi-NCR, with measures escalating according to the Air Quality Index (AQI).

- It was approved by the Supreme Court in 2016 in the M.C. Mehta v. Union of India case

Objective

- Reduce emissions from construction dust, vehicles, industry, waste burning, diesel generators, and other pollution sources during high-pollution periods.

Stages and Measures

- **Stage 1 - Poor**: Mechanised road sweeping, water sprinkling, dust control at construction sites, strict enforcement against open waste burning, checks on polluting vehicles, higher parking charges and promotion of public transport.
- **Stage 2 - Very Poor**: Restrictions on diesel generator sets, intensified road sweeping/water sprinkling, hotspot control, and enhanced public transport.
- **Stage 3 -Severe**: Ban on non-essential construction and demolition, restrictions on certain polluting vehicles, encouragement of work-from-home; school closures may be considered.
- **Stage 4 - Severe +**: Ban on entry of trucks except essential services, closure of schools, suspension of non-essential construction, and possible odd-even restrictions on private four-wheelers if notified.

Institutional Framework:

- **Implementing Authority**: Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)
- **Technical Support**: Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and India Meteorological Department (IMD) provide AQI and meteorological forecasts.

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2 Protected Area Permit (PAP) (Source: The Indian Express)

- **What is it?**: PAP is an official permission required by foreign nationals to visit certain sensitive and protected areas in India.
- **Governing Orders**: Regulated under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, and Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963.
- **Purpose**:
  - **National Security**: Regulate entry near international borders.
  - **Cultural Preservation**: Protect indigenous communities and their lifestyles.
  - **Environmental Conservation**: Safeguard fragile ecosystems.
- **Areas Requiring PAP:**
  - **States**: Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand.
  - **Islands**: Certain islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- **Who issues PAPs?**: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in consultation with state governments.
- **Conditions for PAP:**
  - Limited duration of stay (up to 30 days).
  - Foreigners must travel in groups of at least two persons.
  - Restricted activities like photography and interactions with tribal communities.

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3 Naming of Cyclones (Source: The Indian Express)

