



# Compensation to Construction Workers

## Why in News?

[The Supreme Court](#) ordered Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan to compensate construction workers whenever [Graded Response Action Plan \(GRAP\)](#) measures in Delhi-NCR halt activities, even without a specific court directive.

## Key Points

- **Compensation Payment:**
  - The Supreme Court directed that **compensation must be paid** using funds collected as **labour cess**.
  - Compensation should be disbursed even in the absence of a specific court order.
- **GRAP and Air Quality Measures:**
  - GRAP measures are implemented based on the **average air quality in Delhi-NCR** to [curb pollution levels](#).
  - The court reaffirmed that **compensation must be paid whenever construction activities are halted** due to GRAP measures in 2024 and 2025.
- **State-wise Compensation Details:**
  - **Haryana** paid compensation to:
    - 2,68,759 workers in the first phase of GRAP-4.
    - 2,24,881 workers in the second phase.
    - Around 95,000 workers are in the process of receiving compensation for January 2025.
  - **Delhi** disbursed compensation to 93,272 workers, while the verification process for remaining registered workers is ongoing.
  - **Rajasthan** compensated 3,197 workers.
  - **Uttar Pradesh** paid compensation to:
    - 4,88,246 workers in phase 1.
    - 4,84,157 workers in phase 2.
    - 691 workers in phase 3.
- **Registration and Union Meetings:**
  - The court directed the Delhi government to convene meetings with workers' unions to **ensure proper registration of construction workers**.
  - Similar directions were issued to Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan, covering:
    - 14 districts in Haryana
    - 8 districts in Uttar Pradesh
    - 2 districts in Rajasthan (Bharatpur and Alwar)
- **Accountability of NCR States:**
  - On 2 December 2024, the court asked Chief Secretaries of NCR States to appear via video conferencing to confirm whether **subsistence allowance** was paid to workers affected by work stoppages.
  - **Significance:**
    - The **order reinforces the right to compensation for vulnerable workers** during environmental curbs.
    - It ensures **financial security for labourers affected by [pollution control measures](#)**.

## Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

### ▪ About:

- GRAP is a **set of emergency measures** that kick in to prevent further deterioration of air quality once **it reaches a certain threshold** in the Delhi-NCR region.
- It was approved by the Supreme Court in 2016 after the Supreme Court's order in the matter of **M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (2016)** and notified in 2017.

### ▪ Implementation:

- From 2021 onwards, the GRAP is being implemented by **the CAQM**.
  - Till 2020, the Supreme Court-appointed **Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA)** used to order States to implement GRAP measures.
- The EPCA was dissolved and replaced by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in 2020**.
- CAQM relies on air quality and **meteorological forecasts** by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)** and the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/compensation-to-construction-workers>

