

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

Operation Clean Air - CAQM's Flying Squads inspect 79 road stretches maintained by DMRC, DSIIDC and DDA across Delhi; 15 stretches found with high dust intensity; Agencies directed to intensify dust-mitigation measures based on inspection findings;

NEW DELHI:

As part of the Commission's continuous monitoring and enforcement efforts under the statutory framework and provisions of the extant GRAP in force, 22 Flying Squads of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) conducted the third in line road-inspection drive on 08.12.2025. This focused exercise aimed to assess visible dust accumulation across road stretches maintained by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA)- Rohini Zone, and to evaluate the effectiveness of cleaning, maintenance and dust-suppression measures implemented by these agencies. Flying squads also re-inspected the roads belonging to MCD and NDMC which were already inspected before to see the effectiveness of action taken afterwards.

A total of 79 road stretches were inspected across the roads of the three agencies. Geo-tagged, time-stamped photographs were collected and submitted to the Commission as part of the consolidated inspection report. As per the final compiled data, 15 road stretches exhibited high visible dust levels, 36 showed moderate dust, 22 recorded low dust intensity and 06 stretches were found to have no visible dust.

For DDA, which had the highest number of inspected roads (57), 12 stretches were identified with high visible dust, 27 were moderate, 16 had low, and 02 road stretches showed no visible dust. The findings exhibit that DDA's road-cleaning and mechanical sweeping activities further need to be strengthened, particularly on the stretches where dust accumulation occurs frequently.

In case of DMRC, out of total 10 road stretches inspected, 02 showed no visible dust, 03 recorded low dust, and 04 moderate dust intensity, with no stretch falling in the high-dust intensity category.

Likewise, for DSIIIDC, among 12 roads inspected, 02 stretches recorded no visible dust and 03 stretches with low dust intensity. 04 road stretches reflected moderate dust intensity and with 03 falling under the high-dust intensity category. This calls for continued vigilance.

Further, a re-inspection of the road stretches of MCD and NDMC covered during the earlier round of inspection was also undertaken. Based on corrective measures implemented by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), the Commission noted a nearly 50% reduction in the high-dust intensity category. However, out of its total 35 road stretches re-inspected, 18 stretches still remain to be in the high-dust intensity category. For New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) 01 road stretch was re-inspected. This 01 stretch still remains to be in the high-dust intensity category. The re-inspection findings make it evident that MCD and NDMC should further reinforce their efforts through consistent and timely dust mitigation interventions and deliver improved compliance across all road stretches.

The Commission observed that road dust continues to significantly impact particulate matter levels in Delhi and emphasized the need for strengthened on-ground action, including regular mechanical sweeping, timely disposal of collected dust, maintenance of road shoulders and central verges in addition to deployment of water-sprinkling/dust-suppression systems across all stretches maintained by these agencies.

The Commission reiterated that such targeted inspection exercises under ‘Operation Clean Air’ will continue to ensure strict adherence to dust-control norms and Statutory Directions of the Commission, with the objective of keeping road stretches across Delhi clean, dust-free and compliant with regulatory measures in the region.
