

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

Operation Clean Air - CAQM conducts evening inspection drive in Central Delhi; instances of MSW dumping and biomass/MSW burning identified

NEW DELHI:

As part of its continued monitoring, review and enforcement actions under the Statutory framework of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) conducted an evening inspection drive under 'Operation Clean Air' in Central Delhi. The inspection was undertaken to assess on-ground compliance related to prevention of open dumping and burning of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)/ biomass and to identify localized sources contributing to air pollution.

The inspection was carried out between 17:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs by five members of CAQM Flying Squad in areas covering Karol Bagh and Rajinder Nagar. The teams undertook extensive field inspections, supported by geo-tagged and time-stamped photographic evidence, which were consolidated into inspection reports submitted to the Commission.

As per the consolidated inspection reports, a total of 20 incidences related to MSW/ biomass burning and waste dumping were recorded across the inspected areas. Out of these, 2 incidents pertained to biomass/ MSW burning, while 18 incidents were related to MSW dumping. Biomass/ MSW burning was observed to be largely carried out for heating purposes. Further, multiple locations were found to have dumps of MSW mixed with construction and demolition (C&D) waste, which may potentially lead to burning and aggravate air pollution.

Specific locations in Karol Bagh where violations were observed include Guru Ravidas Marg (near Ahobila Sri Lakshmi Temple and Patel Nagar East Post Office), Vishnu Mandir Marg (outside The Suncourt Hotel Yatri), Krishna Nagar near the crossing of Ganga Mandir Marg and Hardhyan Singh Road, Ganga Mandir Marg near Shri Goma Ram Sablaniya Chauk, Gurudwara Road near Obsession Carpet Store and SBI Cash Deposit Machine, and Ganga Mandir Marg at Gali No. 6 crossing. Instances of both MSW dumping

and MSW burning were observed at these locations, with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) being the concerned agency.

The Commission has directed the concerned agencies, particularly MCD, to ensure that MSW and gardening waste are not stored or dumped along roads or vehicle movement areas and that waste is lifted promptly and disposed of only at designated authorized sites. MCD has also been advised to strictly enforce prohibitory instructions against unauthorized dumping, prevent recurrence of such practices, impose penalties on violators and ensure immediate removal of accumulated waste.

Further, the Commission has informed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) regarding repeated violations of open dumping and open burning of MSW/ biomass across its jurisdictions. The Commission has noted continued complaints indicating systemic gaps in enforcement and non-compliance of Statutory Directions mandating zero tolerance towards MSW/ biomass burning which is a significant contributor to air pollution in the region. MCD has been directed to act and ensure holistic action for prevention of such violations, fixing of responsibility on concerned officials, and furnishing action taken reports, with the objective of achieving zero MSW burning.

CAQM emphasized that localized sources such as open waste dumping and biomass/MSW burning continue to be significant contributors to air pollution, especially during evening and night hours, and require sustained vigilance and enforcement. The Commission reiterated that inspection and enforcement actions under 'Operation Clean Air' will continue to be undertaken regularly across Delhi-NCR with a focused approach on identifying and eliminating such localized pollution sources.

The Commission is working in close coordination with all concerned agencies to ensure strict compliance with Statutory Directions, effective implementation of GRAP measures and abatement of air pollution in the region.
