

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan,
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

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PRESS RELEASE

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

NEW DELHI:

As part of its active monitoring, review and enforcement of 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 a night-time inspection drive in North Delhi under 'Operation Clean Air'. The inspection was undertaken to assess on-ground compliance related to prevention of dumping and open burning of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)/biomass, and to identify localized sources contributing to air pollution in the region.

The inspection was carried out on 14.01.2026 during evening and night hours (between 17:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs) by CAQM Flying Squad teams deployed in Jahangir Puri, Shalimar Bagh and Wazirpur areas of North Delhi. The teams conducted extensive field inspections, supported by geo-tagged and time-stamped photographic evidence, which were consolidated into a detailed inspection report submitted to the Commission.

As per the consolidated report submitted, 65 incidences (20 in Jahangir Puri, 17 in Shalimar Bagh and 28 in Wazirpur) were recorded across the three areas. Out of which, 47 instances of biomass/MSW burning (12 in Jahangir Puri, 14 in Shalimar Bagh and 21 in Wazirpur) and 18 instances of MSW dumping (08 in Jahangir Puri, 03 in Shalimar Bagh and 07 in Wazirpur) were recorded. Biomass burning was largely observed along roadsides, near tea stalls, shops and open spaces, primarily for heating purposes during night hours. MSW dumping and accumulation were found at roadside locations, near markets, industrial pockets, parks and garbage vulnerable points.

The identified violations highlight the need for enhanced vigilance during evening and night hours, particularly in densely populated residential areas and industrial pockets. Localized issues including waste dumping and burning continue to remain significant contributors to air pollution during the ongoing winter season and require sustained preventive and enforcement measures.

The Commission has emphasized the need for strict enforcement of Solid Waste Management Rules, strengthening of waste collection and lifting mechanisms, timely clearance of waste, enhanced night-time monitoring to discourage biomass burning for heating purposes. Concerned local bodies and agencies, including the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and other land-owning agencies, have been advised to take immediate necessary actions and ensure close coordination to prevent recurrence of such violations.

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