

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

Operation Clean Air - CAQM conducts inspection of road stretches under GNIDA jurisdiction; 102 instances of visible road dust observed, targeted corrective actions directed

NEW DELHI:

As part of its continuous monitoring, review and enforcement actions under the Statutory framework of the extant Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) conducted an inspection drive in Greater Noida to assess the presence of visible road dust and the effectiveness of road-cleaning and sweeping operations on road stretches maintained by the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). The inspection was undertaken under 'Operation Clean Air' with the objective of evaluating on-ground implementation of dust mitigation measures and identifying gaps requiring immediate corrective action.

For the inspection, a total of 08 teams, comprising 03 teams of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and 05 teams of the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), were deployed by the Commission. The teams covered 35 areas under the jurisdiction of GNIDA and inspected multiple arterial and internal road stretches. Geotagged and time-stamped photographic evidences were collected during the inspections and submitted to the Commission as part of the consolidated inspection report.

The inspection indicated that visible road dust continues to be a matter of concern at several locations in Greater Noida. A total of 102 incidents of visible road dust violations were observed across the inspected areas. The violations were reported on a range of internal roads, sector roads and major corridors, including Beta, Delta, Alpha, Gamma, Eta, Sigma, Omicron, Zeta, Ecotech, Knowledge Park, Techzone and other sectors, as well as on several 60 m, 80 m and 130 m wide roads connecting important junctions and rotaries.

The observations point towards the need for strengthening and intensifying mechanical sweeping, regular water sprinkling, prompt lifting and scientific disposal of collected

dust and debris, and ensuring effective upkeep of roadsides, central verges and adjoining areas. In certain locations, the presence of accumulated dust appears to be linked with inadequate sweeping frequency, movement of heavy vehicles, and insufficient housekeeping of road margins.

The Commission has directed GNIDA and concerned agencies to undertake immediate corrective measures at all identified locations and to ensure strict compliance with CAQM's Statutory Directions and GRAP measures. The Commission has also emphasized the need for strengthened enforcement and supervision, proper deployment of mechanical road sweeping machines (MRSMs), continuous monitoring of performance, and fixing of accountability for lapses.

The inspection and enforcement drives under 'Operation Clean Air' will continue to be undertaken regularly across NCR to ensure effective implementation of dust mitigation measures and to prevent deterioration of air quality in the region due to road dust emissions. CAQM is working on war-footing with all concerned agencies to ensure clean, well-maintained and dust-free road stretches across the region.
