

Direction No. 96

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS**

17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

F. No.11018/01/2021-CAQM/73/VK

Dated: 13.02.2026

Subject: Direction under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 – Implementation of the Action Plans for prevention and elimination of Wheat Stubble Burning in 2026 – reg.

1. WHEREAS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021, has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Commission);
2. WHEREAS, under section 12(1) of the Act, the Commission has powers to take all such measures, issue directions, etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas;
3. WHEREAS, Section 12 (1) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer, or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;
4. WHEREAS, the Delhi-NCR faces air pollution challenges throughout the year and the stubble burning activities contribute to the pollution during the harvesting season. The crop residue burning not only impacts air quality in Delhi-NCR but it also impacts the local air quality where it is burnt;
5. WHEREAS, wheat stubble burning is also a matter of concern because of its impact on air quality. As per the standard protocol developed by ISRO/IARI, the number of fire events recorded during wheat harvesting season (1st April to 31st May 2025) in Punjab, Haryana, and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh were 10207, 1832, and 259 respectively;

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6. WHEREAS, the Commission, since inception, has been continually deliberating upon the issue of paddy stubble burning with major stakeholders including with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, GNCTD, State Pollution Control Boards of NCR States and Punjab, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and various academic and knowledge institutions in this field;
7. WHEREAS, the Commission had provided a broad Framework to the States concerned for control/elimination of crop residue burning and directed them to draw up detailed State-specific Action Plans based on the major contours of the Framework, on a year-to-year basis;
8. WHEREAS, an advisory dated 28.07.2021 was issued from the Commission on effective *ex-situ* stubble management in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh;
9. WHEREAS, the Commission had also directed the Governments of NCR States, Government of NCT of Delhi and Government of Punjab to adopt the standard protocol developed by ISRO for monitoring and reporting fire events using the satellite data;
10. WHEREAS, the Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have been formulating and updating their State-specific Annual Action Plans for prevention and control of paddy stubble burning on a year-to-year basis;
11. WHEREAS, the Commission has identified prevention and control of paddy stubble burning as a priority area and issued Directions for the elimination of paddy stubble burning and States have been implementing the Directions of the Commission;
12. WHEREAS, the matter of wheat stubble burning was deliberated in the 26th meeting of the Commission held on 22.12.2025 and subsequent meeting held with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on 22.12.2025 wherein, the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh presented their respective plans of action and the Commission advised these states to update and refine the Action Plans;
13. NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the urgent need to control air pollution from burning of wheat straw, the Commission, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 12 of the CAQM Act, 2021, hereby, directs the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to:
 - i. Effectively implement the State Action Plan in letter and spirit, to eliminate and control the wheat stubble burning.

- ii. Map each farm in all the villages for the proposed mode of wheat stubble management (crop diversification/ *in-situ* management / *ex-situ* management / fodder etc.).
- iii. Tag specific nodal officers to a group of farmers, covering all farmers in the district. Maximum 100 farmers could be tagged with each nodal officer, for effective monitoring.
- iv. Ensure optimum utilization and timely availability of CRM machines to the farmers, mainly during the peak harvesting season, through a mobile app.
- v. Mandate rent-free availability of CRM machines for small / marginal farmers through the CHCs.
- vi. Provide adequate and appropriate storage facility for wheat straw, ensuring minimization of losses due to fire.
- vii. Establish a robust and continuous supply chain of wheat straw in various forms for *ex-situ* applications including its use as fodder. A District Level Supply Chain Management Plan to be formulated for each district considering demand and supply throughout the year.
- viii. Constitute a dedicated “Parali Protection Force” (PPF) at the district / block level comprising of police officers, officers of the Agriculture Department, administrative officers, nodal / cluster officers and officials from other stakeholder Departments, to closely monitor, oversee and guard against any incidence of open wheat stubble burning.
- ix. Intensify patrolling by enforcement agencies during late evening hours considering the tendency of some farmers to resort to burning during late evening hours to evade the satellite recording of the farm fires.
- x. Ensure imposition and realization of appropriate EC charges in respect of all such persons, who resort to stubble burning.
- xi. Undertake extensive IEC activities and awareness programs about various measures and schemes to prevent crop residue burning and also to educate farmers about best practices and adverse impact of stubble burning .

14. GNCT of Delhi and State Government of Rajasthan shall also make every effort towards totally eliminating wheat stubble burning incidents during the ensuing harvest season.

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15. Status of the actions taken as per the respective Action Plans shall be reported to the Commission on a monthly basis.

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(Tarun Kumar Pithode)
Member- Secretary

To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat- 1, Sector- 1, Chandigarh- 160001.
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector- 1, Chandigarh_ 160001.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U.P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow-226001.
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi- 110001.
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005.

Copy to:

1. Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board.
2. Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board.
3. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board.
4. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
5. Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM

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(Tarun Kumar Pithode)
Member- Secretary