

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

- 29th meeting of the Full Commission was held on 18.08.2026 under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Verma, Chairperson, CAQM;
- The Commission approved issuance of Direction No. 102 mandating new registration of cleaner modes of Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) in Delhi-NCR in a phased manner. The measure has been taken in view of the significant contribution of the vehicular sector to PM_{2.5} emissions in Delhi-NCR and the disproportionately high particulate emissions from LGVs, which constitute only about 1.2% of the active vehicle stock but contribute approximately 3.3% of PM emissions from the total active fleet. The Direction provides for phased restrictions on registration of Diesel/ Petrol/ CNG N1 LGVs from 01.01.2027 in Delhi and 01.07.2027 in High Vehicle Density (HVD) Districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonapat, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar and registration of Diesel/ Petrol N1 LGVs w.e.f. 01.01.2028 in the remaining Districts of NCR, while phased restrictions on registration of N2 LGVs shall commence from 01.01.2028, 01.07.2028 and 01.01.2029, respectively;
- The Commission approved issuance of Direction No. 103 for prevention and control of air pollution from Stone Crushing Units in NCR. The Direction seeks to strengthen control of fugitive dust emissions by incorporating the dust mitigation measures prescribed under CPCB's Environmental Guidelines for Stone Crushing Units, 2023 into CTO conditions of stone crushing units. It also provides for technology-enabled continuous remote monitoring, including video surveillance, PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀ sensors, wheel washing, etc. for effective enforcement;
- The Commission approved revision of the procedure for permitting resumption of operations in cases where Closure Directions have been issued by CAQM. The revised procedure provides for submission of corrective/ preventive compliance along with requisite evidence and a notarized affidavit. The SPCBs/ DPCC shall verify and recover applicable Environmental Compensation (EC) concurrently. CAQM may also undertake independent/random verification through CPCB Flying Squads, with further closure action in case of non-compliance;
- The Commission approved financial assistance for 04 R&D projects recommended by the Project Evaluation and Appraisal Committee (PEAC) under the Call for Proposals 2025-26, covering road dust exposure, mechanical road sweeping technologies,

particulate matter profiling/source apportionment in high-rise buildings, and forecasting of rice residue burning. The total approved financial assistance is Rs. 3,25,56,393/- for two years;

- The Commission noted the relaxation under Direction No. 65 till 13.09.2026, permitting temporary use of alternate fuels in place of natural gas by industries, hotels, restaurants and other enterprises in NCR, including Delhi, in view of the extraordinary global energy supply situation arising from the conflict in the Middle East;
- The Commission noted the amendments issued through circulation to Direction No. 86 dated 02.01.2025 and Direction No. 98 dated 20.02.2026. The amendment to Direction No. 86 extends its implementation to other Municipal Corporations and bigger cities/towns in NCR, while the amendment to Direction No. 98 extends the timeline to 01.10.2026 for implementation of revised particulate matter emission standards for industries across Delhi-NCR;
- The Commission noted the status of Environmental Compensation imposed on six Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) for non-achievement of biomass co-firing targets during 2024-25. EC amounting to approximately Rs. 61.85 crore was imposed on the six non-compliant TPPs, of which 50% amounting to Rs. 30.92 crore had been received, in compliance with interim orders of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal;
- The Commission was apprised of the status of Enforcement Task Force (ETF) decisions, inspections, closures and resumption of units since the previous Commission meeting. As on 10.08.2026, 1,816 violating units had been issued Closure Orders, of which 1,461 cases had been considered for resumption following compliance, while 126 cases had been transferred to SPCBs/DPCCs for further action;
- The Commission was informed about the invocation and revocation of GRAP since the last Commission meeting. During the period under review, Stage-I of GRAP was invoked on 19.05.2026 and revoked on 29.05.2026, remaining in force for 11 days;
- The Commission noted the progress of greening and plantation activities in Delhi-NCR against the targets fixed for 2026-27. Against an overall target of 4,60,54,740 plantations, including trees, shrubs and bamboo, 2,53,30,816 plantations had been achieved as on 04.08.2026. The Commission advised concerned authorities to achieve the stipulated targets and ensure regular monitoring for plantation survival.
