Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

CAQM Chairperson calls for accelerated Winter Action Plan implementation; directs six ULBs of Gurugram and Jhajjar districts to strengthen field-level action, closer monitoring and enforcement

- **CAQM Chairperson stresses effective implementation of Commission's directions and advisories at the ULB level.**
- **Directs strict enforcement of complete door-to-door waste collection and transport of waste to designated facilities;**
- **Stresses municipal-level accountability for implementation of CAQM directions;**
- **Directs road redevelopment complying with CAQM framework, timely pothole repairs and sustained dust mitigation;**
- **Calls for C&D dust control, targeted hotspot mitigation, effective GRAP enforcement and coordinated night patrolling against illegal burning;**
- **Advises electric heating arrangements at *Raain Baseras* and intensive, citizen-centric outreach.**

New Delhi:

Shri Rajesh Verma, Chairperson, Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), chaired a second review meeting late yesterday in Gurugram covering six Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) namely Sohna, Pataudi Jatauli Mandi, Farrukhnagar of Gurugram district and Jhajjar, Bahadurgarh, and Beri of Jhajjar district.



Following the earlier review with the Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Manesar, Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) and other concerned authorities, the meeting focused on ensuring that CAQM directions and advisories translate into effective implementation at the municipality level, including in smaller ULBs. The Chairperson called

for accelerated implementation of the Winter Action Plan, closer field-level monitoring and accountability of the concerned municipal authorities.

The Chairperson undertook a detailed review of door-to-door municipal solid waste collection and directed the ULBs to ensure regular collection from households, strict enforcement of all waste collection direction and transportation of collected waste to designated processing and disposal facilities. The Chairperson also called for accelerated remediation of pending legacy waste, stronger fresh waste processing arrangements and follow-up on the proposal for cluster-based waste processing for Jhajjar and Beri.

Shri Verma directed the authorities to ensure road redevelopment in accordance with the CAQM framework, complete pending pothole repairs and sustain dust control through increased mechanised sweeping, water sprinkling, anti-smog guns, and paving, greening and stabilisation of road shoulders. He advised registration of construction sites on the dust monitoring portal, stronger camera-based surveillance and enforcement against non-compliant Construction and Demolition (C&D) sites and ready-mix concrete plants. He also called for targeted action at the eight identified pollution hotspots in Jhajjar district, including road repairs, traffic signals, deployment of traffic personnel and dust suppression.

CAQM Chairperson Shri Rajesh Verma stressed upon effective enforcement of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and coordinated night patrolling to prevent illegal burning of waste, plastic, PVC-coated wires, electrical cable scrap and other materials. He called for coordinated surveillance by the District Administration, Haryana Police, Fire Services, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) and Gram Panchayats, alongside enforcement against vehicles without valid Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUCC) and those carrying uncovered C&D waste.

Taking note of the challans issued and FIRs registered against violations, it was advised to the authorities to place greater emphasis on preventive action through sustained information, education, communication and public awareness, rather than relying on punitive action alone. He called for focused citizen-centric outreach to help them appreciate pollution control norms making them partners in the pollution mitigation drive, with the objective of preventing violations and encouraging voluntary compliance. He also emphasised on capacity-building of sanitation workers and intensive, dust and encourage compliance with CAQM directions.

To strengthen prevention and detection of biomass burning, Sohna and Pataudi Jatauli Mandi were advised to intensify patrolling and use drones and low-cost sensors for assessment of biomass burning incidents. The district administrations were also advised to utilise the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to facilitate LPG cylinder refills to households, thereby discouraging reliance on biomass for household fuel needs.

As part of winter preparedness, the Chairperson called for electric heating arrangements at *Raain Baseras* and shelters to be maintained to discourage open bonfires for warmth.

Concluding the meeting, Shri Verma called upon all concerned authorities to ensure sustained implementation of CAQM directions and advisories at the municipal level, supported by coordinated field action and regular monitoring under the Winter Action Plan.

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