Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

CAQM reviews progress of Special Campaign for Removal of Legacy Dust across 12 MCD Zones; Emphasis laid on sustained action to further strengthen dust mitigation efforts

NEW DELHI:

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) today convened a review meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri Tarun Kumar Pithode, Member Secretary, CAQM, to assess the progress of the Special Campaign for Removal of Legacy Dust being undertaken across all 12 Zones of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

Deputy Commissioners (DCs)/ representatives of all the Zones of MCD presented the status of implementation, achievements, challenges encountered and the way forward. The review meeting was held as part of the follow-up mechanism pursuant to the CAQM letter issued on 11.05.2026 directing Dust Control and Management Cells (DCMCs) in Delhi to initiate a special campaign for the identification, removal and scientific disposal of legacy dust from roads, roadsides, medians, footpaths, and other associated areas under their jurisdiction.

The Commission reviewed the intensive dust mitigation measures undertaken by all the MCD Zones viz. mechanized road sweeping, manual cleaning, water sprinkling, removal of accumulated dust and debris, deployment of sanitation workers and close on-ground monitoring. The Commission observed the zone-wise progress which is as follows:

S. No.	MCD Zone	Duration of dust removal	Total Road Length Covered (in Kilometres)	Legacy Dust / Waste Removed (in Metric Tonne)
1.	Rohini Zone	01.01.2026 – 26.07.2026	24,486 kms.	2,950.40 MT
2.	Outer North Zone	01.03.2026 – 28.07.2026	8,057 kms.	948.66 MT
3.	Najafgarh Zone	05.06.2026 – 25.07.2026	24.5 kms.	270 MT
4.	Keshav Puram Zone	18.05.2026– 29.05.2026	117.5 kms.	218 MT
5.	Civil Lines Zone	01.05.2026– 26.07.2026	128 kms.	95.65 MT

6.	Old Delhi Zone	18.05.2026 – 27.07.2026	179.4 kms.	386.4 MT
7.	Karol Bagh Zone	18.05.2026- 27.06.2026	122 kms.	378 MT
8.	Central Zone	12.05.2026- 28.07.2026	240 kms./ day	12.8 MT/ day
9.	West Zone	01.06.2026- 28.07.2026	10,137.5 kms.	638.5 MT
10.	Shahdara South Zone	01.05.2026- 26.07.2026	150 kms.	135.89 MT
11.	Shahdara North Zone	06.06.2026-28.07.2026	81.7 kms.	906.8 MT
12.	South Zone	01.06.2026- 30.06.2026	05 kms./ day	623.49 MT



The DCs/ representatives highlighted several operational challenges encountered during the campaign. These included the limitation of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) on roads less than nine metres due to parked vehicles, overflow of water during irrigation of central verges by other agencies leading to repeated deposition of soil and dust on carriageways, absence of end-to-end paving on several road stretches resulting in recurring dust generation and continued littering despite the availability of adequate waste bins, indicating the need for stronger behavioural change through sustained Information, Education and Communication (IEC) initiatives amongst citizens.

The Commission further advised that IEC activities should be intensified to promote citizen participation & responsibility, regular capacity-building and training workshops shall be carried out for sanitation workers to enhance operational efficiency, as per the Framework for targeted IEC activities by NCR States and GNCTD for abatement of air pollution, issued by CAQM on 03.03.2026.

The Commission emphasised that all concerned agencies should prioritise end-to-end paving and greening of roads in accordance with Standard Framework issued by the Commission, dt. 07.01.2025, to eliminate exposed soil and prevent recurring dust generation. CAQM also stressed the need for plantation and landscaping using suitable soil-trapping plant species to

minimise soil erosion and reduce dust re-suspension, instead of excessive concretization of open areas.

CAQM reiterated that in order to curb dust pollution in Delhi, which contributes to Particulate Matter (PM) emissions in Delhi, Special Campaign for Removal of Legacy Dust should continue as a sustained and phased exercise, with periodic repetition, continuous monitoring and regular maintenance, rather than as a one-time initiative. All the Zones were directed to maintain the momentum of the campaign, strengthen inter-agency coordination and address the identified gaps in a time-bound manner for effective mitigation of air pollution in Delhi.

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