

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

- 27th meeting of the full Commission held on 20.02.2026 under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajesh Verma, Chairperson, CAQM;
- Key agenda items deliberated upon and reviewed in detail during the meeting;
- The Commission took note of the re-appointment of Dr. S.D. Attri as Full-Time Technical Member, CAQM, pursuant to orders issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC);
- The Commission considered the Report of Experts prepared by a panel of 33 domain experts from IITs, academia, research institutes, NGOs and other reputed institutes pursuant to directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P. (C) No. 1135/2020. The meta-analysis of source apportionment studies (2015-2025) identifies PM_{2.5} as the dominant pollutant impacting AQI in Delhi and highlights the influence of both local emissions and transboundary effect of regional movement of pollution across the airshed;
- The Report indicates that during winter months, major contributors to PM_{2.5} include Secondary Particulates [transformed from gaseous emissions from Transport, Industries, Power Plants, Biomass burning, etc.] (27%), Transport (23%), Biomass Burning (20%), Dust (15%) and Industry including Thermal Power Plants (9%). Further, during summer months, Dust (27%) emerges as the dominant contributor, followed by Transport (19%), Secondary Particulates (17%), Industry (14%) and Biomass Burning (12%). Public suggestions received on the Report are under consideration;
- The Commission approved strengthening of the CAAQMS network based on grid-based spatial coverage, urban contiguity, land use, secondary particulates (transformed from gaseous emissions from Transport, Industries, Power Plants, Biomass burning, etc.) and population density criteria. A total of 46 additional stations are to be established i.e. 14 in Delhi, 16 in Haryana, 01 in Rajasthan and 15 in Uttar Pradesh. With this augmentation, the total number of CAAQMS in Delhi-NCR would increase to 157, thereby enhancing monitoring density and improving assessment of regional pollutants and baseline air quality levels;
- The Commission also took note of Direction No. 96 dated 13.02.2026 mandating coordinated and time-bound implementation of State Action Plans for prevention and elimination of wheat stubble burning in 2026;
- Draft Direction No. 97 concerning management of construction & demolition (C&D) waste and strengthening dust mitigation protocols was also discussed and approved for issuance after due consideration of comments received from the Members;

- Further, the Draft Direction No. 98 for stipulation of stricter PM emission standards for industries across Delhi-NCR was placed for consideration and was approved by the Commission;
- The Commission also reviewed the status of Enforcement Task Force (ETF) actions including closures and resumption of units and took note of GRAP orders issued since the last Full Commission meeting dated 22.12.2025;
- The Commission deliberated upon the report submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding congestion at MCD toll plazas and highlighted the need for expeditious implementation of barrier-free Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) systems integrated with RFID and ANPR technologies to reduce vehicular congestion and vehicular emissions;
- The Commission also reviewed the State-Level and City Annual Action Plans for 2026 for abatement of air pollution in Delhi-NCR. These Plans, prepared by the NCR States, Municipal Corporations and Development Authorities aim at sustained structural measures across key sectors including transport, industry, dust mitigation, waste management and biomass burning. The Commission reiterated that implementation of these Action Plans shall be monitored regularly;
- The Commission reiterated the need for continued strict vigilance, coordinated enforcement and effective implementation of Statutory Directions. All implementing agencies committed to regularly review air pollution abatement measures and to take strict and effective action across all sectors.
