

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas

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PRESS RELEASE

Following directions of the Commission, a Dedicated CAQM Cell setup in SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab for continuous round-the-year monitoring and coordination towards effective management of paddy stubble

NEW DELHI:

In a significant move towards strengthening year-round surveillance and coordination for effective management of stubble in the States of Punjab and Haryana, a dedicated CAQM Cell has been established at SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab.

The Cell will now operate round the year right from the start of preparation of plans, engagement with farmers and all other stakeholders related to effective paddy stubble management and monitoring the supply chain logistics for continuous and assured supply of paddy straw to the various end-users.

Besides paddy stubble management, the Cell shall also coordinate and monitor the air pollution aspects in identified Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) and co-firing of biomass in such TPPs. The Cell shall also be involved in inspections/ monitoring of air quality related issues across all sectors in the NCR areas in Haryana which are farther from Delhi.

The Cell has been set up at Kisan Vikas Chamber, Kalkat Bhawan, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab. This permanent facility will play a crucial role in coordinating efforts with the State Agriculture Departments of Haryana and Punjab, field enforcement teams, and Flying Squads, especially during the peak paddy harvesting and stubble burning season.

Previously, a temporary Paddy Stubble Management Cell (PSMC) had been operational in Chandigarh from 1st October to 30th November 2024, during the critical crop residue burning period. Recognizing that stubble management, particularly *ex-situ* utilisation of paddy straw, is a year-round necessity, CAQM had urged the Government of Punjab to provide infrastructure/ logistical support for sustained planning, execution, and monitoring.
