

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS**

17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi-110001

F. No. A-110018/01/2021-CAQM

Dated:15.05.2026

Subject: Directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 – Implementation of the Action Plan for prevention and control of Paddy Stubble Burning in 2026, targeting complete elimination – reg.

1. WHEREAS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021, has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Commission);
2. WHEREAS, under section 12(1) of the Act, the Commission has powers to take all such measures, issue directions, etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas;
3. WHEREAS, Section 12(2)(xi) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer, or any authority and such person, officer or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;
4. WHEREAS, paddy stubble burning is a matter of grave concern due to its high impact on air quality in NCR and the Commission, since inception, has been continually deliberating upon the issue with major stakeholders including with the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, GNCTD, State Pollution Control Boards of NCR States and Punjab, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and various academic and knowledge institutions in this field;

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5. WHEREAS, the Commission had provided a broad Framework to the States concerned for control/elimination of crop residue burning and directed them to draw up detailed State-specific Action Plans based on the major contours of the Framework, on a year-to-year basis;
6. WHEREAS, an Advisory dated 28.07.2021 was also issued from the Commission on effective *ex-situ* stubble management in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh;
7. WHEREAS, the Commission had also directed the Governments of NCR States, Government of NCT of Delhi and Government of Punjab to adopt the standard protocol developed by ISRO for monitoring and reporting fire events using the satellite data;
8. WHEREAS, the respective governments have been formulating and updating their specific Annual Action Plans for prevention and control of paddy stubble burning on a year-to-year basis during 2021- 2025 and based on field experience and learnings, the Action Plans for the paddy harvest season during 2026, targeting elimination of the practice of open burning of paddy stubble in the entire State of Punjab, Haryana and NCR Districts of Uttar Pradesh have also been framed;
9. WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has also taken cognizance of the serious concerns regarding incidents of paddy stubble burning from time to time. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had directed the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on 03.04.2025 to constitute small committees headed by the Chief Secretary of the respective State to monitor implementation of the directions, which may be issued by the CAQM and to submit monthly reports to the Commission. The Hon'ble Supreme Court also noted that the Commission is free to seek directions from the Hon'ble Court on the basis of such reports;
10. WHEREAS, the salient features of the respective Action Plans for paddy stubble management during 2026 were presented by the representatives of the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in a meeting held on 06.05.2026;



11. WHEREAS, draft statutory direction was circulated among all the Members of the Commission for their comments, including the representatives of the concerned State Governments and the Commission considered and approved the same in its meeting held on 15.05.2026;
12. NOW, THEREFORE, in view of the compelling need to control air pollution from burning paddy straw, the Commission hereby directs the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to effectively implement their respective Action Plans in letter and spirit to ensure complete elimination of paddy stubble burning during 2026, *inter alia*, focusing on the following:
- i. Mapping of each farm in all villages for the proposed mode of paddy stubble management (crop diversification/*in-situ* management/*ex-situ* management/fodder etc.);
 - ii. Tagging of a specific nodal officer to a group of farmers, covering all farmers in the district. Maximum 100 farmers (50 farmers for hotspot villages) could be tagged with each Nodal Officer, for effective monitoring and coordination between the farmers and other stakeholders;
 - iii. Comprehensive review of the inventories of CRM machines, including discarding the outdated non-functional machines - A fresh gap analysis and planning for procurement of different types and number of machines shall be conducted;
 - iv. Ensure timely procurement of new CRM machines by August 2026, as per the comprehensive review;
 - v. Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) shall be established to facilitate access to machinery for farmers - Mandate rent-free availability of CRM machines for small/marginal farmers through the CHCs;
 - vi. Set up repair and maintenance centres well in advance to ensure proper functioning of CRM machines during the harvesting season;
 - vii. Develop a web-based dashboard for real-time tracking of district-wise stubble management related data such as crop area and residue generation, *in-situ* and *ex-situ* utilization including storage facilities, harvesting and sowing status, and enforcement details;

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- viii. Effective use of IT including a mobile app for planning, procurement, booking of machines and their on-ground utilization;
- ix. Optimal utilization of balers, rakers and other machines for *ex-situ* management, including a plan for movement of these machines based on the harvesting patterns/schedules in various districts/villages;
- x. Planning for adequate and appropriate storage facility/yards for paddy straw bales, including minimization of losses due to fire, in tune with the projections for *ex-situ* utilization - A gap analysis shall be done and parcels of Govt./Panchayat lands to be identified and made available for storage of paddy straw bales;
- xi. Consolidation of a robust and continuous supply chain of paddy straw in various forms for *ex-situ* applications - District Level Supply Chain Management Plan to be formulated for each district by August 2026 duly mapping the baling, pelleting/briquetting, storage infrastructure and tagging with identified end-use applications;
- xii. Constitution of a dedicated "Parali Protection Force" at the district/block level comprising of police officers, officers of the Agriculture Department, administrative officers, nodal/cluster officers and officials from other stakeholder Departments, to closely monitor, oversee and guard against any incident of paddy stubble burning;
- xiii. Intensified patrolling by enforcement agencies during late evening hours considering the tendency of some farmers to resort to burning during late evening hours to evade the satellite recording of the farm fires;
- xiv. Ensuring Red entries in farm records and imposition and realization of appropriate EC charges in respect of all such persons, who resort to stubble burning;
- xv. Facilitating citizens to report their complaints on social media platforms regarding incidents of stubble burning;
- xvi. Carrying out extensive IEC activities and creating awareness among farmers regarding best practices for effective crop residue management.



13. GNCT of Delhi and State Government of Rajasthan shall also make every possible effort towards eliminating paddy stubble burning incidents during the ensuing harvest season.
14. Status of the preparatory actions as per the timelines/milestones in the respective Plans shall be reported to the Commission on a monthly basis.



(Tarun Kumar Pithode)
Member-Secretary

To:

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, 6th Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat- 1, Sector- 1, Chandigarh - 160001.
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Haryana Civil Secretariat, Sector- 1, Chandigarh - 160001.
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U.P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow - 226001.
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110001.
5. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur - 302005.

Copy to:

1. ACS/Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Govt of Punjab
2. ACS/Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Govt of Haryana
3. ACS/Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Govt of UP
4. ACS/Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Govt of Rajasthan
5. ACS/Principal Secretary, Environment Department, GNCTD
6. ACS/Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt of Punjab
7. ACS/Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt of Haryana
8. ACS/Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt of UP
9. ACS/Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, Govt of Rajasthan
10. ACS/Principal Secretary, Agriculture Department, GNCTD
11. Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board
12. Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board
13. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board
14. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
15. Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM



(Tarun Kumar Pithode)
Member-Secretary