

**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/Vol-VII/ 86

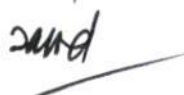
Dated: 09.05.2025

Subject: Direction under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 – Implementation of the plan of action for prevention and control of Paddy Stubble Burning in 2025, 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 (1) 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;

and

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 Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi 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- 2024 and based on field experience and learnings, the Action Plans for the paddy harvest season during 2025, 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 of paddy stubble burning and directed the CAQM to study the suggestions made before the Hon'ble Court by various agencies in this context and in consultation with various stakeholders, suggest appropriate measures and effective solutions;
10. WHEREAS, the salient features of the respective updated Action Plans for paddy stubble management during 2025 were presented by the representatives of the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh before the Commission in its meeting held on 27th March 2025;
11. WHEREAS, arising out of various deliberations held by the Commission with different stakeholders and appraisal of the draft Plans submitted by the State Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the



Commission, inter alia, identified and recommended certain measures towards more effective control / elimination of paddy stubble burning, which were also submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the ongoing matter WP (C) No. 13029 of 1985 M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India:

12. The Hon'ble Supreme Court while hearing the matter on 03.04.2025 inter-alia directed that

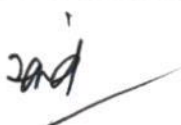
".....for the time being, we approve the recommendations made by CAQM in its report dated 25th March, 2025. Now CAQM will issue directions in exercise of powers under Section 12 of CAQM Act and serve copies thereof on the States and other stake-holders which shall be implemented by all the NCR States.

States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to constitute small committees headed by the Chief Secretary of the States to monitor implementation of the directions, which may be issued by the CAQM.

We direct that Chief Secretaries of States shall submit monthly reports to CAQM starting from 1st June, 2025. The report shall be submitted to CAQM by 10th day of every calendar month. The CAQM is free to seek directions from this Court on the basis of the reports...."

13. In consonance with the above orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, draft statutory directions were accordingly circulated amongst all the Members for their comments / concurrence. Based on the suggestions, comments and submissions made by various Members of the Commission, following key actions, besides the detailed plans formulated by the respective State Governments viz. Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (for NCR areas), have been identified towards the targeted objective of elimination of paddy stubble burning:

- 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 specific nodal officer to a group of farmers, covering all farmers in the district. **Maximum 50 farmers could be tagged with each nodal officer**, for effective monitoring.

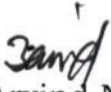


- iii. Comprehensive review of the inventories of CRM machines, including discarding the outdated non-functional machines- **A fresh gap analysis and planning for procurement of different types and nos. of machinery needs to be conducted for 2025.**
- iv. Ensuring **timely procurement of new CRM machines** as per the comprehensive review, to be done latest by August 2025.
- v. Ensure optimal machine availability in CHCs and effective utilization, especially for small/marginal farmers.
- vi. **Mandate rent-free availability of CRM machines for small / marginal farmers through the CHCs.**
- vii. Effective use of IT for planning, procurement, booking of machines and their on-ground utilization.
- viii. **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.**
- ix. Planning for **adequate and appropriate storage facility for paddy straw bales, including minimization of losses due to fire, in tune with the projections for ex-situ utilization-** A gap analysis to be done and parcels of Govt./Panchayat lands to be identified and made available for storage of paddy straw bales.
- x. 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** duly mapping baling, pelleting/briquetting and storage infrastructure and tagging with identified end-use applications.
- xi. **Mandating a common determined rate for procurement of paddy straw in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh as has been done in the State of Haryana.**
- xii. Establish an online platform for real-time and consistent data reporting to monitor the paddy residue generation, CRM utilization, and its in-situ and ex-situ utilization.
- xiii. Promotion and convergence of various schemes of MoA&FW / MoPNG /CPCB / MNRE for ex-situ management of paddy straw.
- xiv. Set up a “pilot” common paddy straw-based boiler to supply steam to multiple units in an industrial estate.
- xv. **Mandating use of paddy straw pellets/briquettes for co-firing in brick kilns on the lines of thermal power plants** (*detailed directions / guidelines to this effect shall be issued by the Commission separately*).



Effective enforcement and monitoring mechanism

- xvi. **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 open paddy stubble burning.
 - xvii. **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.**
 - xviii. Facilitating citizens to report their complaints on social media platform regarding incidents of stubble burning.
 - xix. Ensuring Red Entries in farm records and imposition and realization of appropriate EC charges in respect of all such farmers, who still resort to stubble burning.
14. 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 revised Action Plans in letter and spirit to ensure complete elimination of paddy stubble burning during 2025, inter-alia, focusing on the recommendations / mandates as prescribed by the Commission under paragraph 13 above.
15. GNCT of Delhi and State Government of Rajasthan shall also make every effort towards totally eliminating paddy stubble burning incidents during the ensuing harvest season.
16. Status of the preparatory actions as per the timelines/ milestones in the respective Plans shall be reported to the Commission on a monthly basis as also directed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court in its order dated 03.04.2025.


(Arvind Nautiyal)
Member- Secretary
Email: arvind.nautiyal@gov.in

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. Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board.
2. Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board.
3. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board.
4. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
5. Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM


(Arvind Nautiyal)
Member- Secretary