



Steps Towards Abatement of Air Pollution: CAQM

Why in News

The **State Governments of Punjab, National Capital Region (NCR) States** and **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD)** have developed detailed monitorable action plans based on the framework by the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)** to tackle the problem of air pollution.

- The newly constituted commission (**CAQM**) has sweeping powers in controlling air pollution in Delhi-NCR.
- Also, recently, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has released new **Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs)**.

Key Points

- **Framework of the Commission:** The CAQM has directed for implementation of the action, based on following components of the framework:
 - **In-situ Crop Residue Management**- Supported by the CRM (Crop Residue Management) Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture.
 - Ex-situ Crop Residue Management.
 - Prohibition of **Stubble/Crop Residue Burning**.
 - Effective monitoring/enforcement.
 - Plans/Schemes to reduce the generation of paddy straw.
 - Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities for the Plan of Action.
- **Action Plans:**
 - **Recording Fire Counts:** Adopting a **Standard protocol developed by ISRO** for recording and monitoring the fire counts owing to Stubble burning.
 - **In-situ Crop Residue Management :** The **PUSA Bio-Decomposer technology** application is planned in **NCR States**.
 - **Ex-situ Crop Residue Management:** Promoting utilization of Paddy Straw Pellets/Briquettes for **Co-firing in Thermal Power Plants**.
 - **Abatement of Dust:** Establishing a “Dust Control and Management Cell”.
 - Monitoring construction and demolition through a dedicated Web-portal and Video fencing of projects.
 - Installation of **Anti-smog guns** and screens at construction sites, **dust-suppressants and water mist**, transportation of materials in covered vehicles, installation of air quality monitoring sensors in project sites and Self-audit and certification mechanism by the project agencies are the key steps towards management of dust from construction and demolition project activities.
 - **Industrial Pollution:** Shifting of Industries to **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)/Cleaner Fuels** should be a priority.
 - **Vehicular Pollution:** The Commission has issued an advisory for “**Mandating procurement of zero emission and e-vehicles**” to give a further push to clean technologies in the transport sector and a gradual shift towards **zero emission vehicles/e-**

mobility and progress reviewed.

- All the identified 124 border entry points of Delhi have now been provided with **RFID system** to facilitate **cashless toll/ cess collection** thus avoiding huge traffic congestions and resultant heavy air pollution at the border points.
- **Monitoring:**
 - A **dedicated taskforce** envisaged in each NCR state to continuously monitor and take steps regularly to ensure smooth traffic management, including developing an **“Intelligent Traffic Management System” (ITMS)**.
 - **Petrol/Diesel vehicles** more than **15/10 years old are not permitted to ply** in NCR and progress is reviewed periodically.
 - **State- wise action plans** have also been prepared for **control of Biomass/Municipal Solid Waste Burning and fires in Landfill Sites**.
 - A **Decision Support System (DSS)** for **Air Quality Emergency response**.

Source: PIB

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