

Union Environment Minister reviews Air Pollution Action Plans of Rohtak, Manesar, Panipat and Karnal

Stress given on Industrial Compliance, Waste Management and Expansion of Real-Time Air Quality Monitoring

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Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav today chaired a high-level meeting to undertake a detailed review of the Action Plans of Rohtak, Manesar, Panipat and Karnal for tackling air pollution in these National Capital Region (NCR) cities.



The Minister expressed concern over the high levels of PM₁₀ and the persistent issues related to solid waste management, including construction and demolition (C&D) waste, particularly in industrial areas. Shri Yadav informed that a meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Haryana would be convened to address these concerns, including matters related to funding and approvals, on priority. He also emphasised that all NCR cities should be brought under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) framework.

Reviewing the presentations made by the concerned authorities, Shri Yadav directed that comprehensive data be compiled on industries operating with and without Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO). The Minister directed to issue instructions to all District Magistrates/District Collectors in NCR to collect data on CTO/CTE permissions, total commercial electricity connections, and industrial units with GST registration. These datasets are to be correlated to identify illegally operating and non-

compliant industrial units, particularly with respect to OCEMS and Air Pollution Control Device (APCD) installations. The Minister further directed for increasing the number of automated Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) integrated with the SAMEER App to enable real-time air quality monitoring.

The Minister stressed the need for rigorous awareness generation among stakeholders whose activities contribute to pollution. He observed that smaller municipal corporations should be provided with appropriately sized commercial electric vehicles for public transport, keeping in view road width and passenger footfall. Augmentation of public transport facilities was emphasised. The use of Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) and handheld litter pickers was also stressed, with directions that only EV/CNG-based machines be procured under the Op-Ex model.



Under dust control measures, directions were issued for plantation of local bush varieties in open spaces and on pavements, along with real-time repair of potholes. The Minister also called for submission of short-term and long-term smart traffic management plans for all the reviewed cities to reduce congestion and vehicular emissions. It was directed that C&D waste collection facilities be established in a 5 km by 5 km grid, mapped with the nearest waste processing facility.

The Minister directed officers to take ownership of the issues and demonstrate strong on-ground leadership to address the prevailing challenges through innovative and realistic solutions, while actively involving local stakeholders. Actionable points emerging from all presentations across NCR cities will be compiled, and real-time monitoring of action taken will be carried out by CAQM. Targeted actions and fixing of responsibility will be undertaken at regular intervals, with the objective of achieving at least a 15–20 per cent reduction in AQI levels across NCR by 2026.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), senior officers of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), and Municipal Commissioners/District Magistrates of Rohtak, Manesar, Panipat and Karnal.



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