

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI.**

Original Application No. 687/2023/PB

In the matter of :- Air Quality Index in Various Cities

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Date : 16-01-2026

Neelakshi
.....
Advocate

2. That, the instant matter has been registered Suo-Moto on the basis of Air Quality Bulletins of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) posted on their website in respect of Air Quality Index (AQI) for different cities from 20-10-2023 to 01-11-2023. The Hon'ble Tribunal vide its order dated 06-11-2025 impleaded the Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack of the State of Odisha as Respondent No.- 49 and further directed to file a response before the Hon'ble Tribunal in this matter.
3. That, after receipt of the notice from the Consultant (Judicial), NGT, the Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board, Cuttack was requested to submit a detailed report on the Air Quality in respect to Cuttack city and to submit action taken report if any so as to submit report on affidavit before the Hon'ble Tribunal vide this office Letter No.- 14/Judicial, dated 05-01-2026.
4. That, in response, the Regional Officer, Cuttack of S.P.C.B., Odisha has submitted a detailed report vide his Letter No.- 135, dated 09-01-2026. It is mentioned therein that the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha has been conducting Ambient Air Quality monthly on manual mode at 03 (three) locations of Cuttack city at i.e. (i) On the roof of Regional

DATTATRAYA BHANUJANES SHENOA

S. D. Datta
16/01/26
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
SADAR, CUTTACK

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Office building, Surya Vihar, Link Road, Cuttack (ii) On the roof of Hotel Bishal Inn, Near Traffic Tower, Badambadi, Cuttack and (iii) On the roof of PHD Office Building, Near Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. The Ambient Air quality monitoring is carried out twice in a week 24 hourly and a minimum of 104 measurements are taken in a year at a particular site for the parameters like SO₂, NO₂, NH₃, O₃, PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} as per the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The copy of the Ambient Air Quality report with respect to Air Quality Index (AQI) for the year 2024 & 2025 (January-December) along with the AQI Health Impact Standards, is enclosed herewith and marked as **Annexure- A/49.**

5. That, from the monthly air quality status of Cuttack city for the year 2025, it is observed that AQI falls under Moderate category in the months from January to March and it varies from moderate to poor category for the month of November & December. It is also observed that the AQI from April to October, 2025 falls under satisfactory category, which indicates that the Air Quality Status of Cuttack City mostly remains in satisfactory category. However, in the winter season due to temperature inversion and calm conditions

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EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
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the Air Quality Status shows moderate in the month of January, February & March and moderate to Poor during November & December - 2025. The AQI result indicates that PM₁₀ is the prominent Pollutant in all monitored months of the year 2025 except during the month of November & December, where PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} is the prominent pollutant.

6. That, Cuttack is a Non-attainment City identified under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and various City-level actions have been developed and approved by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The implementation of these action points is being carried out by the respective Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and regulated by the State Pollution Control Board including Cuttack city. The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Odisha operates one Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in Cuttack City at 36 MLD STP, Sector-1, CDA to monitor the real time air quality data which is displayed in the same location for public information.

7. That, every month the air quality status report is being submitted to CPCB. Further, Board has submitted the yearly report-2024 (January to December) of Cuttack City to the Commissioner, Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC).

DATA ROOM SHARDA

S.A. Sadar
16/01/26
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
SADAR, CUTTACK

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16/01/26



Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Environment and Climate Change Department, Commissioner-cum-Chairman, State Transport Authority (STA), Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development (H&UD), Govt. of Odisha to take remedial measures to curb the air pollution problem mostly for Dust Particles (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) in the city.

8. That, observing the deterioration of air quality of Cuttack city in the month of November & December, 2025 and first week of January, 2026 the District Magistrate, Cuttack has imposed immediate restriction on some activities vide Order No.- 33/Judicial, dated 06-01-2026 to prevent further deterioration of ambient air quality.
9. That, the MoEF&CC, Govt. of India has funded ₹ 26.04 Crore fund to Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Cuttack under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) phase wise during 2019-2025 for improvement of air quality in Cuttack city. Out of the fund, road sweeping machine has been purchased, road paving work has been done, a crematorium has been constructed and Capacity Building Programme along with public outreach activities have been conducted by the CMC.
- In addition to that, a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) has been installed by the

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S. A. D. A. R. CUTTACK
16/01/26
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16/01/26



SPCB. The Source Apportionment, Emission Inventory studies and Hotspot Study of CMC area have also been conducted by SPCB along with Capacity building and public outreach activities with this fund.

10. Further, emission from the industrial sector is being monitored through the Consent to Operate (CTO) administration of the Board while emissions from other sources like vehicular emissions, construction & demolition dust emissions and emissions due to municipal solid waste burning are being dealt with as per the city-level action plan prepared under NCAP which are being executed through the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) in association with various stakeholders.

11. That, I have read over the content of the accompanying reply, and the same has been drafted as per my instructions. The contents of the said Reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Identified by Me

Neelakshi

Advocate

DR. SATYAJIT BRAHMANANDA SHINDE

Deponent
Dist. Magistrate & Collector
CUTTACK



S. K. Mishra
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
SADAR, CUTTACK

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16/01/26

VERIFICATION

Verified at Cuttack on the 16th day of January, 2026 that the contents of paragraph 1 to 10 of my above Affidavit are true and correct and no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

PATTADAYA BHANU KUMAR SHANDE

Deponent

**Dist. Magistrate & Collector
CUTTACK**

AFFIDAVIT

Certified that the above deponent being officially known to me appears before me on 16th day of January, 2026 and solemnly affirms that the contents of the above noted affidavit are true to the best of his knowledge based on official records.

Place : Cuttack

Date : 16-01-2026



[Signature]
16/01/26
**Executive Magistrate,
Sadar, Cuttack
EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE
SADAR, CUTTACK**

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16/01/26



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Website: www.ospcbboard.org

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICER, CUTTACK
STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
 [DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
 586, SURYAVIHAR, LINK ROAD, CUTTACK-753012

No. 135 / Legal- 133Date. 09-01-2026

Email/Speed Post

To

The Addl. District Magistrate,
 Collectorate, Cuttack.

Sub: Submission of detailed report in O.A. No.- 687/223 registered suo-moto in the matter of " Air Quality index in various cities" before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi- reg.

Ref: Your letter No. 14/XXIV-08/2025/Judicial, dtd. 05.01.2026.

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, please find enclosed herewith the detailed report on Ambient Air Quality Index (AQI) status of Cuttack city for the year 2024 and 2025 alongwith action taken report for your kind reference. This is for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours Faithfully

REGIONAL OFFICER

Photocopy attested

16/1/26
 Assistant Collector (Urban)
 Collectorate, Cuttack

Report on Ambient Air Quality Index (AQI) Status of Cuttack City in connection with O.A. No.- 687/223 registered suo-moto in the matter of " Air Quality index in various cities" before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

1. The State Pollution Control Board, Odisha has been conducting Ambient Air Quality monitoring on manual mode at three locations of Cuttack City at i.e (i) On the Roof of R.O Building , Surya Vihar, Link Road, (ii) On the roof of Hotel Bishal Inn, Near Traffic Tower, Badambadi and (iii) On the roof of PHD Office Building, Near Barabati Stadium. The ambient air quality monitoring is carried out twice in a week 24 hourly and a minimum of 104 measurements are taken in a year at a particular site for the parameters like SO₂, NO₂, NH₃, O₃, PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} as per the guidelines of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The Ambient Air Quality Report with respect to Air Quality Index (AQI) for the years 2024 & 2025 (January to December) along with AQI Health Impact Standards enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
2. The State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Odisha operates one Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in Cuttack City at 36 MLD STP, Sector-1, CDA, to monitor the real time air quality data which is displayed in the same location for public information. Month wise continuous monitoring results of CAAQMS for the year 2024 & 2025 are enclosed as **Annexure-II & III respectively**.
3. From the monthly air quality status of Cuttack City for the year 2025, it is observed that AQI falls under Moderate Category in the month of January, February, March & AQI for the month of November & December – 2025 varies from moderate to poor category. It is observed that the AQI from April to October, 2025 falls under satisfactory category, which indicates that the Air Quality Status of Cuttack City mostly remain satisfactory category. However, in the winter season due to temperature inversion and calm conditions, the Air Quality Status shows moderate in the month of January, February, March & Moderate to Poor during November & December – 2025. The Air Quality index result indicates that PM₁₀ is the prominent Pollutant in all monitored month of the year 2025 except during the month of November & December, where PM₁₀/PM_{2.5} is the prominent pollutant. Observing the deterioration of air quality of Cuttack city in the month of November & December, 2025 and first week of January, 2026 the District Magistrate, Cuttack has imposed immediate restriction on some activities vide Order No. 33/Judl, dtd. 06.01.2026(**copy enclosed as Annexure-IV**) to prevent further deterioration of ambient air quality.
4. Every month the air quality status report are being submitted to CPCB for submission before the Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in the matter or OA No. 44 of 2018. Further, Board has submitted the yearly report -2024 (January to December) of Cuttack

photo copy attested

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Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack

City to the Commissioner, Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC), Additional Chief Secretary, Forest Environment and Climate Change Department, Commissioner – cum-Chairman, State Transport Authority (STA), Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development (H & UD), Govt. of Odisha and to your Esteemed Office to take remedial measures to curb the air pollution problem mostly for Dust Particles (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) in the City.

5. Cuttack is a Non-attainment City identified under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The objective of NCAP is to reduce PM₁₀ concentrations by up to 40% by 2026, compared to the baseline levels of 2019. Accordingly, City-level action plans have been developed and approved by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The implementation of these action points is being carried out by the respective Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and regulated by the State Pollution Control Board including Cuttack city.
6. That under National Clean Air Program (NCAP), MoEF&CC has given Rs. 26.04 Crore funds to CMC phase wise during 2019-2025 for improvement of air quality of Cuttack city by implementing different measures. With this fund CMC has purchased a road sweeping machine, Road paving work has been done, constructed a crematorium and made Capacity building and public outreach activities. SPCB has installed a Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS), conducted Source Apportionment and Emission Inventory studies and Hotspot Study of CMC area and made Capacity building and public outreach activities with this fund.
7. Emission from the industrial sector is monitored through the Consent administration of the Board while emissions from other sources like vehicular emission, construction and demolition dust emissions and emissions due to municipal solid waste burning are dealt with as per the city level action plan prepared under NCAP and such actions are executed through Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) in association with various stakeholders.

P. Borsari

REGIONAL OFFICER
SPCB, Cuttack

Photo copy attached

16/1/26

Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack

Annexure-IMonthly Average of Cuttack City (January to December) -2024-2025**1. Monthly Average of Cuttack- 2024**

Month	No of Monitoring Station	Average values expressed in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$						AQI w. r. t Prominent Pollutant	Categorisation
		SO ₂	NO ₂	NH ₃	O ₃	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}		
Jan	03	5.6	19.3	44.7	39.3	148	62	132 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
Feb	03	5.5	21.7	45.6	40.5	111	48	107 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
Mar	03	BDL	21.0	43.7	39.0	86	40	86 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
April	03	4.3	20.9	41.6	40.1	83	36	83 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
May	03	4.2	21.0	41.1	39.3	71	30	71 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
June	03	BDL	20.5	43.3	41.3	69	28	69 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
July	03	4.1	20.4	42.0	40.6	59	26	59 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
August	03	4.2	20.5	41.8	38.3	55	25	55 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
September	03	BDL	20.3	38.8	37.7	63	26	63 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
October	03	6.1	20.9	40.3	37.9	72	38	72 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
November	03	6.6	22.1	44.5	40.8	133	58	122 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
December	03	5.7	21.2	40.2	40.5	140	67	127 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate

2. Monthly Average of Cuttack- 2025

Month	No of Monitoring Station	Average values expressed in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$						AQI w. r. t Prominent Pollutant	Categorisation
		SO ₂	NO ₂	NH ₃	O ₃	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}		
Jan	03	5.6	22.7	40.0	42.0	140	66	127 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
Feb	03	BDL	21.8	39.6	40.4	114	57	109 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
Mar	03	BDL	22.1	39.2	41.4	103	52	102 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
April	03	BDL	20.3	38.4	38.9	81	38	81 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
May	03	BDL	20.6	38.9	36.9	73	35	73 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
June	03	4.1	20.5	40.3	34.0	66	30	66 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
July	03	4.0	20.3	38.4	31.3	58	27	58 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
August	03	BDL	20.1	38.5	32.3	52	26	52 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
September	03	4.2	20.6	37.3	31.4	54	27	54 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
October	03	5.7	21.4	38.1	31.9	90	45	90 (PM ₁₀)	Satisfactory
November	03	5.7	23.2	41.1	34.0	132	55	121 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate
December	03	6.0	24.3	42.6	38.5	176	75	151 (PM ₁₀)	Moderate

N.B.-AQI- Air Quality Index,, BDL- Below Detectable Limit, BDL Value for SO₂ ≤ 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

The Health impact on the basis of AQI is stated below

AQI VALUE	CATEGORY	IMPACT ON HUMAN HEALTH
0-50	GOOD	Minimal impact
51-100	SATISFACTORY	Minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people
101-200	MODERATE	Breathing discomfort to the people with lung, heart disease, children and adults
201-300	POOR	Breathing discomfort to people on prolonged exposure
301-400	VERY POOR	Respiratory illness to the people on prolonged exposure
>401	SEVERE	Respiratory effects even on healthy people

Photocopy attested

Signature
16/11/24
Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack

Annexure-II

**Status of Air Quality from Jan to Dec, 2024 (CAAQMS)
For Cuttack City**

Sl. No.	Month	PM ₁₀ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	PM _{2.5} ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	NO ₂ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	SO ₂ ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	AQI (Prominent Pollutant)	CATEGORY
1	January, 2024	125	186	29	11		VERY POOR
2	February, 2024	71	129	21	9	137 (PM 2.5)	MODERATE
3	March, 2024	35	82	14	4	82 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
4	April, 2024	41	106	21	11	104 (PM ₁₀)	MODERATE
5	May, 2024	16	54	14	3	54 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
6	June, 2024	23	61	11	4	61 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
7	July, 2024	17	46	10	3	46 (PM ₁₀)	GOOD
8	August, 2024	13	45	9	5	45 (PM ₁₀)	GOOD
9	September, 2024	16	51	11	6	51 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
10	October, 2024	28	72	14	7	72 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
11	November, 2024	70	149	29	8	133 (PM 2.5)	MODERATE
12	December, 2024	81	147	28	10	170 (PM 2.5)	MODERATE

Photocopy checked

16/11/24

**Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack**

Annexure-III

**Status of Air Quality from Jan to Dec, 2025 (CAAQMS)
For Cuttack City**

Sl. No.	Month	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	AQI (Prominent Pollutant)	CATEGORY
1	January, 2025	150	87	34	11	190 (PM _{2.5})	MODERATE
2	February, 2025	117	52	42	4	111 (PM ₁₀)	MODERATE
3	March, 2025	112	40	20	6	108 (PM ₁₀)	MODERATE
4	April, 2025	72	26	12	5	72 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
5	May, 2025	61	37	13	3	61 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
6	June, 2025	69	25	14	6	69 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
7	July, 2025	36	10	8	5	36 (PM ₁₀)	GOOD
8	August, 2025	40	13	8	4	40 (PM ₁₀)	GOOD
9	September, 2025	40	19	11	4	40 (PM ₁₀)	GOOD
10	October, 2025	97	43	14	6	97 (PM ₁₀)	SATISFACTORY
11	November, 2025	188	94	36	7	213 (PM _{2.5})	POOR
12	December, 2025	212	116	48	15	287 (PM _{2.5})	POOR

photocopy attested

[Signature]
16/11/26

Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack

**OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, CUTTACK
(JUDICIAL SECTION)**

Order No.33/Judl Date 06.01.2026

WHEREAS, the air quality in Cuttack District has deteriorated from Satisfactory to Moderate, Poor, and Very Poor as reported by the Regional Officer, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), Cuttack, vide Letter No. 3802 dated 02.12.2025;

AND WHEREAS, in view of the prevailing conditions, it has become necessary to impose immediate restrictions to prevent further deterioration of ambient air quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **Shri Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde, I.A.S., Collector & District Magistrate, Cuttack**, do hereby promulgate the following restrictions within the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) area and all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) with immediate effect;

1. All construction activities shall remain prohibited daily between 6.00 PM and 10.00 AM, except major projects. The list of Project in enclosed in Annexure – A.
2. All demolition and earthwork activities within the CMC/ULB limits are strictly prohibited.
3. The Cuttack Municipal Corporation/ULBs/NHAI/Concerned Executing Agencies shall ensure water sprinkling on all roads at least three (3) times a day, after their assessment.
4. Open burning of waste, coal burning in dhabas, and open fire of any kind are strictly prohibited.
5. The Sub-Collector, Sadar/Banki/Athagarh, and RTO, Cuttack shall issue separate orders restricting the movement of coal, minor and major mineral, and ash-carrying trucks during daytime.
6. No truck without proper tarpaulin covering shall be permitted to ply on National Highways, State Highways, District Major Roads, and other roads within the district.
7. No brick kiln/Cement/Ready Mix Plant unit shall operate without valid permission from the concerned competent authority(ies).
8. NHAI and the Executive Engineer, NH Division, shall ensure adequate water sprinkling at all their construction sites.
9. The Police, CMC/ULBs, all executing agencies, and the RTO are directed to ensure strict compliance with this order.
10. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sadar/Banki/Athagarh, shall ensure daily monitoring and submit a daily compliance report to this office.
11. This order shall remain in force for a period of **seven (7) days**, unless extended it further.

Any person who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the relevant provisions of law.

[Signature]
District Magistrate, Cuttack

Photocopy Attested


[Signature]
16/1/26

Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack

Memo No. 34/Judl. Date. 06.01.2026

Copy forwarded to the DI&PRO, Cuttack for information and necessary action. He is directed to publicise the news for wider publicity.

Copy forwarded to the DeGM, Collectorate, Cuttack for information and necessary action. He is directed to publish it in the district website for wider publicity and information of all.



District Magistrate, Cuttack

Memo No.35/Judl. Date. 06.01.2026

Copy forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Cuttack/ Superintendent of Police, Cuttack/ Commissioner, CMC, Cuttack/RO, SPCB, Cuttack/Deputy Director, Mines, Cuttack/PD, NHAI/RTO, Cuttack/Deputy Fire Officer, Cuttack/All Sub-Collectors & SDMs/All Tahasildars & EMs/All BDOs/Assistant Director, Factories & Boiler, Cuttack/All EO, ULB/GM, DIC/Superintending Engineer, R&B - I/II/Charbatia/Superintending Engineer, RD - I/II under Cuttack District for information and necessary action. They are requested to instruct their field functionaries for strict adherence of this order under their respective jurisdiction and also ensure intensive enforcement and take appropriate action as per the provision of law.


District Magistrate, Cuttack

Photocopy Attested


16/1/26

Assistant Collector (Judicial)
Collectorate, Cuttack