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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI

IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 687 OF 2023
With
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1228 OF 2024
With
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 646 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

AIR QUALITY INDEX IN VARIOUS CITIES

WITH

NEWS ITEM TITLED “LANCET STUDY LINKS ALARMING MORTALITY RATES TO POOR AIR QUALITY 12 STRATEGIES TO COMBAT COUNTRY’S AIR POLLUTION CRISIS” APPEARING IN THE INDIAN EXPRESS DATED 13.09.2024

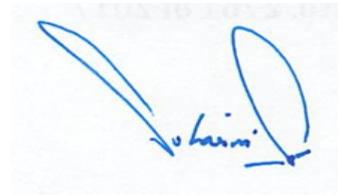
WITH

NEWS ITEM TITLED “HOW PARTIAL COMBUSTION FUELS YOUR BAD-AIR WOES” APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 02.05.2024

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THROUGH



SUHASINI SEN
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Date: 19.01.2026
Place - New Delhi

7695

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

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ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 687 OF 2023

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NEWS ITEM TITLED "HOW PARTIAL COMBUSTION FUELS YOUR BAD-AIR WOES" APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 02.05.2024

COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT, THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS & CLIMATE CHANGE:-

I, N. Subrahmanyam, S/o Shri Narasimha Rao, aged about 39 years, currently working as Scientist 'E', in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Jor Bagh, New Delhi do hereby solemnly swear and affirm as follows:

1. That in my official capacity as stated above, I am aware of the facts and circumstances of the present case and am competent to swear to the contents of the present affidavit.

I state that my knowledge in this regard is based on the official records available with the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (hereby referred as MoEFCC).



N. Subrah

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2. That the present affidavit is being filed in compliance with the directions passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 26.11.2025, whereby this Hon'ble Tribunal, inter alia, directed as follows:

".....Learned Amicus Curiae appearing in the matter has also submitted that the NCAP is going to expire in the year 2025-26. Responding to it, learned Counsel for the MoEF&CC has informed that the preparations are underway.

It is also the submission of learned Amicus that the MoEF&CC should disclose the targets which have been achieved under the present NCAP Programme. Thus, we require the MoEF&CC to file the affidavit within four weeks to disclose the next step after the expiry of the present NCAP and the status of the target achieved in the present NCAP....."

A copy of order dated 26.11.2025 is marked and annexed as **Annexure- I**.

3. That it is respectfully submitted that the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by the Government of India as a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy to improve air quality across 130 cities, comprising 82 non-attainment cities and 48 Million-Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations, spread across 24 States and Union Territories, through a comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative approach.
4. That the NCAP programme focuses on reducing concentrations of Particulate Matter (PM10)—fine airborne particles primarily generated from sources such as road dust, vehicular emissions, construction activities, open waste burning, and industrial operations. These particles pose serious health risks, including respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular conditions, and long-term lung damage.



N. Subudh

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5. That the NCAP envisages achieving a reduction of up to 40% in PM₁₀ concentrations, or alternatively achieving the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM₁₀, i.e., 60 µg/m³, by the year 2025–26.
6. That the focused and coordinated actions undertaken by the 130 cities under NCAP have yielded positive outcomes. As per the air quality performance assessment conducted in the year 2024–25, the improvement of air quality in 130 cities as compared to the levels of the year 2017–18:
 1. 103 cities have shown a reduction in PM₁₀ concentrations;
 2. 25 cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%;
 3. 16 cities have achieved reduction in the range of 30% to 40%
 4. 23 cities have achieved reduction in the range of 20% to 30%
 5. 20 cities have achieved reduction in the range of 10% to 20 %
 6. 19 cities have achieved reduction in the range of 1% to 10%
 7. 27 cities have not shown reduction
 8. 22 cities have met the NAAQS for PM₁₀ with annual average concentrations below 60 µg/m³.

A copy of Status of PM 10 reduction in 130 cities in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. 2017-18 is marked and annexed as **Annexure- II**.

7. That cities covered under NCAP have prepared a City-specific Clean Air Action Plan (CAP) with clearly defined sector-wise interventions and annual targets for PM₁₀ reduction. These CAPs focus on mitigation measures relating to road dust management, solid waste management, vehicular emissions, construction and demolition activities, and industrial pollution control.

8. That financial support has been provided for implementation of NCAP interventions. The XV Finance Commission, through the Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund



N. Singh

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(MPCCF), made a provision of ₹16,539 crore for targeted air quality improvement actions in 48 Million-Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations. Additionally, ₹3,591 crore was allocated as critical gap funding for 82 non-attainment cities under the Central Sector Scheme (CSS) "Control of Pollution (CP)" of MoEF&CC. That, as on date, an amount of ₹13,784.68 crore has been released to 130 cities under NCAP, comprising:

- ₹2,394.88 crore to 82 non-attainment cities under the CP Scheme of MoEF&CC; and,
- ₹11,389.80 crore to 48 Million-Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations under the Million Plus City Challenge Fund (MPCCF) of the XV Finance Commission grants.

11. That, steps are being taken for continuation of NCAP beyond 31st March, 2026.

12. That in view of the facts and circumstances stated hereinabove, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass such further order(s) as it may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.

N. Subrahmanyam

(एन. सुब्रह्मण्यम)
(N. SUBRAHMANYAM)
DEPONENT
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Identified by
Adv. Subrahmanyam
UP 102558/2014
I identified the deponent/recipient
who has signed in my presence

VERIFICATION:

Verified at _____ on this the 10 day of JAN 2026 that the contents of this reply affidavit

based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are correct to my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.



Solely affirmed before me, read over & explained to the deponent.

Notary Public. DELHI

10 JAN 2026

N. Subrahmanyam

(एन. सुब्रह्मण्यम)
(N. SUBRAHMANYAM)
DEPONENT
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Item Nos. 17 to 19

Court No. 1

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 687/2023

Air Quality Index in various Cities

WITH

Original Application No. 1228/2024

News Item titled "Lancet study links alarming mortality rates to poor air quality 12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis" appearing in the Indian Express dated 13.09.2024

WITH

Original Application No. 646/2024

News Item titled "How Partial Combustion Fuels Your Bad-Air Woes" appearing in The Times of India dated 02.05.2024

Date of hearing: 26.11.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Senior Advocate (Amicus Curiae) with Ms. Mansi Bachani & Mr. Anubhav Anand, Advs.

Respondents: Ms. Suhasini Sen & Ms. Raushni Kaura, Advs. for MoEF & CC
Dr. Abhishek Atrey, Adv. for CAQM
Ms. Richa Kapoor & Ms. Udipti Chopra, Advs. for Punjab PCB
Mr. Rahul Khurana, Ms. Bhavya Singla & Mr. Ishan, Advs. for the State of Haryana & HSPCB
Mr. Mukesh Verma & Ms. Vatsala Tripathi, Advs. for MPCB
Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan & Ms. Vanshika Sharma, Advs. for CPCB in OA 687/2023
Mr. Atif Suhrawardy & Mr. Pankaj Kumar, Advs. for CPCB in OA 646/2024 (Through VC)
Mr. Saurabh Balwani, Adv. for CPCB in OA 1228/2024
Mr. Nishant Awana, Adv. for RSPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Pradeep Misra & Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Advs. for UPPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Divyanshu Kumar Srivastava, Adv. for the State of Himachal Pradesh (Through VC)
Mr. Udit Malik, Adv. for the State of Punjab
Mr. Dhananjay Baijal & Mr. Tilak Singh, Advs. for Telangana PCB
Ms. Jyoti Mendiratta & Ms. Ananya Basudha, Advs. for GNCTD
Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, Adv. for the State of West Bengal (Through VC)
Mr. Kumar Anurag Singh, Adv. for the State of Jharkhand (Through VC)
Mr. Balendu Shekhar & Ms. Tanisha Samanta, Advs. for DPCC in OA 646/2024 (Through VC)
Mr. Raghav Sharma, Adv. for MP PCB (Through VC)
Mr. Gautam Singh, Adv. for UT of J&K
Mr. Gautam Singh, Adv. for the State of Andhra Pradesh
Mr. Shuvodeep Roy & Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Advs. for the State of Assam
Mr. Aaditya A. Pande, Mr. Sourav Singh & Ms. Chitransha Singh Sikarwar, Advs. for the State of Maharashtra

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ORDER

1. A letter has been circulated by Counsel for the State of UP seeking three weeks' time to file a detailed response on behalf of 12 newly impleaded District Magistrates. It has been pointed out that after the previous order dated 06.11.2025 impleading concerning the District Magistrates of additional NAC, the reply only on behalf of Respondent - Member Secretary, HSPCB has been filed. Hence, the newly added respondents are directed to file their reply within four weeks.
2. Learned Amicus Curiae appearing in the matter has also submitted that the NCAP is going to expire in the year 2025-26. Responding to it, learned Counsel for the MoEF&CC has informed that the preparations are underway.
3. It is also the submission of learned Amicus that the MoEF&CC should disclose the targets which have been achieved under the present NCAP Programme. Thus, we require the MoEF&CC to file the affidavit within four weeks to disclose the next step after the expiry of the present NCAP and the status of the target achieved in the present NCAP.
4. Learned Amicus has also pointed out that there is a typographical error in entry 13 of List-II concerning the list of NAC City not part of the OA on page 3 of the previous order, wherein instead of "State of Jharkhand" in Non-attainment City "Ranchi", it should be the "State of Bihar" and Non-attainment City "Gaya". The said error accordingly stands corrected.
5. List on 20.01.2026.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 26, 2025
OA No. 687/2023 and connected matters
dv

7701 Annexure - R15/II

**PM10 reduction target vs achievement in 48 Million-Plus Cities in FY
2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18**

States	Sl. No	Cities	Average concentration of PM ₁₀ for FY2017-2018 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Target for four years with 15% annual reduction (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25)	Average concentration of PM ₁₀ for 2024-25 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
Andhra Pradesh	1	Vijayawada	91	47.8% (annual target of 15% improvement as compared to previous year)	64	29.7
	2	Visakhapatnam	76		101	-32.9
Bihar	3	Patna	172		167	2.9
Chattisgarh	4	Durg Bhilai Nagar	86		69	19.8
	5	Raipur	70		75	-7.1
Gujarat	6	Surat	130		71	45.4
	7	Rajkot	150		89	40.7
	8	Ahmedabad	164		103	37.2
	9	Vadodara	133		90	32.3
Haryana	10	Faridabad	229		147	35.8
Jharkhand	11	Dhanbad	315		166	47.3
	12	Ranchi	141		107	24.1
	13	Jamshedpur	135		145	-7.4
Karnataka	14	Bengaluru	92		68	26.1
Madhya Pradesh	15	Jabalpur	101		73	27.7
	16	Gwalior	126		117	7.1
	17	Bhopal	112		107	4.5
	18	Indore	82		83	-1.2
Maharashtra	19	Greater Mumbai	161		90	44.1
	20	Badlapur	160		90	43.8
	21	Ulhasnagar	153		90	41.2
	22	Thane	138		90	34.8
	23	Vasai virar	99		90	9.1

	24	Pune	102		93	8.8
	25	Nagpur	100		92	8.0
	26	Nashik	82		76	7.3
	27	Navi Mumbai	88		90	-2.3
	28	Aurangabad	75		100	-33.3
Punjab	29	Amritsar	189		112	40.7
	30	Ludhiana	168		129	23.2
Rajasthan	31	Jodhpur	189		122	35.4
	32	Jaipur	172		142	17.4
	33	Kota	139		115	17.3
Tamil Nadu	34	Trichy	88		57	35.2
	35	Madurai	72		61	15.3
	36	Chennai	66		58	12.1
Telangana	37	Hyderabad	110		81	26.4
Uttar Pradesh	38	Varanasi	230		59	74.3
	39	Kanpur	227		102	55.1
	40	Agra	202		103	49.0
	41	Ghaziabad	285		154	46.0
	42	Lucknow	253		142	43.9
	43	Allahabad	169		99	41.4
	44	Meerut	159		133	16.4
West Bengal	45	Kolkata	147		92	37.4
	46	Howrah	139		92	33.8
	47	Asansol	147		131	10.9
	48	Barrackpore	86		92	-7.0

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**PM10 reduction target vs achievement in 82 Non-Attainment Cities in FY
2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18**

States	Sl. No	Cities	Average concentration of PM ₁₀ for FY 2017-2018 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Target for four years (2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24 & 2024-25)	Average concentration of PM ₁₀ for FY 2024-25 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
Andhra Pradesh	1	Rajahmundry	85	13%	59	31%
	2	Kadapa	75	11%	56	25%
	3	Kurnool	79	13%	60	24%
	4	Anantapur	78	15%	60	23%
	5	Nellore	64	20%	51	20%
	6	Chittoor	70	13%	60	14%
	7	Eluru	72	17%	64	11%
	8	Ongole	65	18%	58	11%
	9	Guntur	66	17%	64	3%
	10	Vizianagaram	72	18%	74	-3%
	11	Srikakulam	69	17%	79	-14%
Assam	12	Sibasagar	73	To maintain NAAQS standard	55	25%
	13	Nagaon	82	23%	65	21%
	14	Guwahati	103	24%	100	3%
	15	Nalbari	87	17%	85	2%
Assam	16	Silchar	49	16%	54	-10%
Bihar	17	Muzaffarpur	147	21%	131	11%
	18	Gaya	79	20%	87	-10%
Chandigarh	19	Chandigarh	114	17%	114	0%
Chattisgarh	20	Korba	57	16%	69	-21%
Delhi	21	Delhi	241	22%	203	16%
Himachal Pradesh	22	Nalagarh	146	19%	68	53%
	23	Sunder Nagar	78	17%	47	40%
	24	Baddi	174	20%	108	38%

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	25	Kala Amb	118	To maintain NAAQS standard	84	29%
	26	Parwanoo	66	To maintain NAAQS standard	48	27%
	27	Paonta Sahib	84	19%	81	4%
	28	Damtal	55	To maintain NAAQS standard	56	-2%
Jammu	29	Srinagar	132	23%	76	42%
	30	Jammu	157	26%	124	21%
Karnataka	31	Devanagere	74	16%	57	23%
	32	Hubli-Dharwad	79	20%	61	23%
	33	Gulbarga / Kalaburgi	55	31%	52	5%
Madhya Pradesh	34	Ujjain	93	20%	80	14%
	35	Dewas	83	24%	86	-4%
	36	Sagar	73	21%	79	-8%
Maharashtra	37	Akola	111	12%	74	33%
	38	Amravati	102	19%	76	25%
	39	Latur	82	21%	67	18%
	40	Sangli	87	15%	74	15%
	41	Kolhapur	89	22%	81	9%
	42	Jalna	99	21%	93	6%
	43	Chandrapur	118	17%	111	6%
	44	Solapur	81	23%	83	-2%
	45	Jalgaon	70	16%	93	-33%
Meghalaya	46	Byrnihat	175	13%	98	44%
Nagaland	47	Kohima	127	13%	71	44%
	48	Dimapur	142	12%	112	21%
Odisha	49	Cuttack	93	26%	89	4%
	50	Kalinga Nagar	109	22%	109	0%
	51	Bhubaneswar	85	27%	86	-1%
	52	Talcher	113	22%	119	-5%
	53	Balasore	84	23%	93	-11%
	54	Rourkela	99	26%	111	-12%
	55	Angul	97	22%	116	-20%
Punjab	56	Jalandhar	178	16%	99	44%

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	57	Naya Nangal	87	26%	58	33%
	58	Khanna	142	18%	101	29%
	59	Dera Baba Nana nak	79	16%	58	27%
	60	Gobindgarh	148	22%	124	16%
	61	Patiala	106	22%	91	14%
	62	Dera Bassi	88	26%	98	-11%
Rajasthan	63	Alwar	152	20%	105	31%
	64	Udaipur	127	27%	121	5%
Tamil Nadu	65	Tuticorin	123	15%	56	54%
Telangana	66	Sangareddy	85	22%	86	-1%
	67	Nalgonda	59	20%	78	-32%
Uttar Pradesh	68	Bareilly	207	26%	48	77%
	69	Firozabad	247	28%	100	60%
	70	Moradabad	222	41%	96	57%
	71	Raebareli	145	29%	79	46%
	72	Jhansi	109	22%	60	45%
	73	Noida	229	30%	149	35%
	74	Gorakhpur	150	75%	105	30%
	75	Gajraula	204	35%	148	27%
	76	Khurja	195	44%	159	18%
	77	Anpara	175	29%	155	11%
Uttarakhand	78	Dehradun	250	20%	107	57%
	79	Rishikesh	129	27%	84	35%
	80	Kashipur	99	33%	93	6%
West Bengal	81	Haldia	92	15%	81	12%
	82	Durgapur	150	22%	149	1%