

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 605 of 2024**

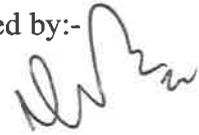
**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**NEWS ITEM TITLED "OH-ZONE! WHY THIS PROMINENT POLLUTANT IN DELHI AIR IS BECOMING A CAUSE FOR CONCERN" APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 22.04.2024.**

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Filed by:-



**(NARENDER PAL SINGH)**

Advocate for MoEF&CC  
(Respondent no.4)  
Tel-9311010090

Dated: 27.11.2025

Place- New Delhi



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 605 of 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**NEWS ITEM TITLED "OH-ZONE! WHY THIS PROMINENT POLLUTANT IN DELHI AIR IS BECOMING A CAUSE FOR CONCERN" APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 22.04.2024.**

**COMPLIANCE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, RESPONDENT No. 4.**

I, V. Pazhaniyandi, S/o Shri Velayudhan Pillai, aged about 46 years, working as Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India having its office at Jorbagh, New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am duly authorized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, respondent no. 4, to swear this compliance affidavit. I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and am, therefore, competent to depose on behalf of the Ministry.
2. That the Hon'ble Tribunal, vide its order dated 21.08.2025, has, inter alia, observed as under:



  
 (पलनियान्डी वी.)  
 (PAZHANIYANDI. V.)  
 निदेशक (सी.पी.)/Director (CP)  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
 Mo Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
 Govt. of India, New Delhi

**"Para 3.** *Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), in its counter affidavit dated 19.04.2025, has taken a similar position by stating as under:*

*"5. That the Answering Respondent, considering the importance of the subject matter and the need for a more comprehensive understanding, the MoEF&CC recommends constitution of an Expert Committee comprising of specialists/experts in this relevant field and submit report in a time-bound manner as mentioned in the CPCB report and the findings thereof will be placed before the Hon'ble Tribunal."*

**Para 4:** *Learned Counsel appearing for MoEF&CC is granted four weeks' time to indicate the proposed Terms of Reference for the Expert Committee and the experts who are proposed to be included in that Committee. List on 12.11.2025."*

A copy of order dated 22.08.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-I**

3. That, in compliance with the aforesaid directions, the answering respondent, in consultation with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), has prepared the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Expert Committee along with the suggested list of experts/institutions. A

copy of ToR is annexed herewith as **Annexure-II**.



(2)

*(पञ्चनियांडी. वी.)*  
**(PAZHANIYANDI. V.)**  
 निदेशक (सी.पी.) / Director (CP)  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
 M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
 भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
 Govt. of India, New Delhi

4. That the Hon'ble Tribunal, vide its order dated 12.11.2025, was pleased to pass the following direction:

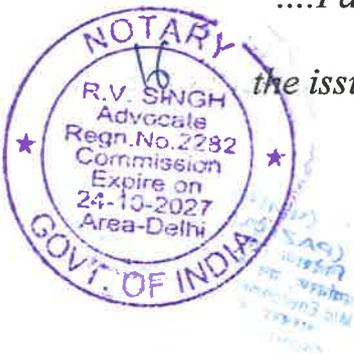
*“Learned Counsel appearing for MoEF&CC seeks further one week time to indicate the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the expert committee and the name of the experts in the committee. He submits that though ToR has been received but in view of that ToR, initially, a preliminary report will be submitted by the committee and if required steps for obtaining the comprehensive report will be taken. He does not dispute that in those ToR in case if no further comprehensive report is sought, there is no mention of any remedial action.”*

A copy of order dated 12.11.2025 is annexed as **Annexure-III**.

5. That the answering respondent respectfully submits that a similar issue relating to air pollution is also under consideration before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in W.P.(C) No. 13029 of 1985 titled as M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India. A true copy of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dated 17.11.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-IV**.

6. That the Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide order dated 17.11.2025, while hearing the matter concerning air pollution, issued the following directions;

*“....Para 16. Further, Ms. Bhati informs us that the Union of India is taking the issue very seriously and the Hon'ble Minister at MoEF&CC convened*



(3)

प्रधानियांडी. वी.)  
U. S. MANIYANDI. V.)  
निदेशक (सी. पी. डी.) Director (CP)  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi

a meeting with the Environment Ministers of all the concerned states on 11th November 2025. Ms. Bhati states that if a day's time is given, she would obtain necessary instructions from the authorities viz., what further steps could be taken so as to find a long-term solution to the menace of pollution.

Para 17. We, therefore, adjourn the matter to 19th November 2025, so that the learned Additional Solicitor General of India can obtain instructions from the concerned authorities at MoEF&CC with regard to the proposed plan of action.....”

7. That, in compliance with the above directions, the answering respondent convened a meeting on 18.11.2025 with the States/UTs of Delhi–NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to review the short-term and long-term measures to be undertaken by the concerned agencies for control of air pollution. The answering respondent also filed its response before the Hon’ble Court on 19.11.2025, which was taken on record vide order of the Hon’ble Court dated 19.11.2025. The response filed by MoEF&CC is annexed herewith as **Annexure–V**, and a copy of the order taking the same on record is annexed as **Annexure–VI**.

8. In view of the above submissions, it is most humbly prayed that this Hon’ble Tribunal may graciously take the same on record and pass such



(4)

(PAZHANIYANDI. V.)  
निदेशक (सी.पी.) / Director (CP)  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi

order(s) as may be deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

*(Signature)*  
**DEPONENT**  
(PAZHANIYANDI, V.)  
निदेशक (सी.पी.) / Director (CP)  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi

**VERIFICATION:**

Verified at \_\_\_\_\_ on this the **26 NOV 2025** day of 2025 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.

*(Signature)*  
I Identified the deponent/ executant who has signed in my presence.

*(Signature)*  
**DEPONENT**  
(पलनिवन्दी, वी.)  
(PAZHANIYANDI, V.)  
निदेशक (सी.पी.) / Director (CP)  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi



solemnly affirmed before me, read over & explained to the deponent

*(Signature)*  
Notary Public, DELHI

**26 NOV 2025**

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Wild Game  
Department  
1952  
Bureau of Fish and Game  
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(BY STATE OF ALASKA)  
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ALASKA  
Wild Game  
Department  
1952  
Bureau of Fish and Game  
1455 B 11-22 1952  
(BY STATE OF ALASKA)  
(BY STATE OF ALASKA)

1952

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

Original Application No. 605/2024

News Item titled "Oh-zone! Why this prominent pollutant in Delhi air is becoming a cause for concern" appearing in The Times of India dated 22.04.2024

Date of hearing: 21.08.2025

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

Respondents: Mr. Narender Pal Singh, Advocate for MoEF&CC  
Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan, Ms. Kshitij Singh and Ms. Shikha Chauhan, Advocates for CPCB  
Dr. Abhishek Atrey and Mr. Navneet Gupta, Advocates for CAQM  
Mr. Balendu Shekhar and Ms. Tanisha Samanta, Advocate for DPCC

**ORDER**

1. The issue involved in this Original Application, registered *suo-moto*, relates to the rising level of ground level Ozone in Delhi.
2. Central Pollution Control Board in its reply dated 20.12.2024 has suggested a comprehensive study by experts on the problem by observing as under:

**"7. Way forward**

*It has been globally established that the control of ozone concentration is only possible through control of its precursors at a regional or national level, and the Government of India has taken several initiatives as listed in Section 6 above for their control.*

*However, considering the elevated levels of ozone that were observed during COVID-19 lockdown (April 2020) and that the ozone concentration is also influenced by transboundary movement, soil and biogenic emissions, a detailed study may be required with help of air quality experts in order to evaluate the reasons for higher ozone levels at various locations in Delhi, and further ozone formation modelling may be required to assess the contribution of transboundary, biogenic and anthropogenic sources."*

3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change also in its counter affidavit dated 19.04.2025 has taken the similar stand by mentioning as under:

*"5. That the Answering Respondent, considering the importance of the subject matter and the need for a more comprehensive understanding, the MoEFCC recommends constitution of an Expert Committee comprising of specialist of experts in this relevant field and submit report in a time-bound manner as mentioned in the CPCB report and the findings thereof will be placed before the Hon'ble Tribunal."*

4. Learned Counsel appearing for MoEF&CC is granted four weeks' time to indicate the proposed Terms of Reference for the Expert Committee and the experts who are proposed to be included in that Committee.

5. List on 12.11.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Ishwar Singh, EM

Dr. Prashant Gargava, EM

August 21, 2025  
Original Application No. 605/2024  
R



**LIFE**  
Lifestyle for  
Environment



ONE EARTH - ONE FAMILY - ONE FUTURE

ANNEXURE - II  
169

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA

EMAIL/SPEED POST

CM-13011/18/2025-AQM-HO-CPCB-HO

November 08, 2025

Director (CP)

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan

Jor Bagh, New Delhi- 110003

**Sub: OA No. 605 of 2024 along with OA No. 1069 of 2024 in the matter of News Items titled "Oh - zone ! why this prominent pollutant in Delhi air becoming a cause for concern" and "CSE report finds dangerous increase in ozone pollution across urban India" before NGT (PB), Delhi – reg.**

Sir,

This is with reference to MoEF&CC letter dated October 22, 2025 on the subject matter. In this regard, please find enclosed ToR for the committee along with tentative list of experts/institutions proposed for inclusion.

This is issued with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours sincerely,

(P. Agarwal)

Scientist 'F' and Head  
Air Quality Management Division

Encl: As above

(9)

'परिवेश भवन' पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032

दूरभाष/Tel: 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट/Website : www.cpbc.nic.in

**OA No. 605 of 2024 along with OA No. 1069 of 2024 in the matter of News Items titled "Ozone-1: why this prominent pollutant in Delhi air becoming a cause for concern" and "CSE report finds dangerous increase in ozone pollution across urban India" before NGT (PB), Delhi**

Terms of Reference (ToR) of the expert committee:-

1. To examine CPCB report dated 20.12.2024 and the concentration data of ozone & its precursors in Delhi.
2. To assess the need for conducting a detailed and comprehensive study as proposed by CPCB. In case, such detailed and comprehensive study is needed, the committee shall suggest scope of the study and deliverables expected from the study. The committee shall also assess tentative cost of the said study.
3. The committee shall submit its report within 02 months.

Proposed/tentative list of experts for the committee:-

1. Dr. Mukesh Sharma, IIT Kanpur
2. Dr. KV George, CSIR-NEERI
3. Dr. Dilip Ganguly, IIT Delhi
4. Dr. Vijay Kumar Soni, IMD

Item No. 10 & 11

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 605/2024

News Item titled "Oh-zone! Why this prominent pollutant in Delhi air is becoming a cause for concern" appearing in The Times of India dated 22.04.2024

With

Original Application No. 1069/2024

News Item titled "CSE report finds dangerous increase in ozone pollution across urban India" appearing in Down to Earth dated 06.08.2024

Date of hearing: 12.11.2025

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

Respondent: Mr. Narender Pal Singh, Advocate for MoEF&CC in OA 605/2024  
Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan, Mr. Arindam Bharadwaj and Ms. Shikha Chauhan, Advocates for CPCB in OA 605/2024  
Dr. Abhishek Atrey and Mr. Navneet Gupta, Advocates for CAQM in OA 605/2024  
Mr. Balendu Shekhar and Ms. Tanisha Samanta, Advocate for DPCC in OA 605/2024  
Ms. Praveena Gautam, Mr. Pawan Shukla, Ms. Tissy A. Thomas & Mr. Rohan Bansla, Advs. for MoEF & CC in OA 1069/2024  
Mr. Srinivas Vishven, Adv. for CPCB in OA 1069/2024

**ORDER**

1. Learned Counsel appearing for MoEF&CC seeks further one week time to indicate the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the expert committee and the name of the experts in the committee. He submits that though ToR has been received but in view of that ToR, initially, a preliminary report will be submitted by the committee and if required steps for obtaining the comprehensive report will be taken. He does not dispute that in those ToR in case if no further comprehensive report is sought, there is no mention of any remedial action. He submits that this aspect will also be looked into and affidavit in terms of the order dated 21.08.2025 will be filed within one week.

2. List on 27.11.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 12, 2025  
Original Application No. 605/2024  
& Original Application No. 1069/2024  
JG.

(12)

ITEM NO.10

COURT NO.1

CORRECTED  
SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

WRIT PETITION(S)(CIVIL) NO(S). 13029/1985

M.C. MEHTA

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

NOTE ON BEHALF OF AMICUS CURIAE ON AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA.

Date : 17-11-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N.V. ANJARIA

Amicus Curiae

Ms. Aparajita Singh, Sr. Advocate  
Ms. Uttara Babbar, Sr. Advocate

Mr. Harish N. Salve, Sr. Advocate (N.P.)

Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Sr. Advocate (N.P.)

Ms. Shibani Ghosh, Advocate  
Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury, Advocate

For Petitioner(s) : Petitioner-in-person  
Applicant-in-person

For Respondent(s)/Applicant(s) :

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.  
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR  
Ms. Suhasini Sen, Adv.  
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.  
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.  
Ms. Neelakshi Bhadouria, Adv.  
Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv.

Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.  
Mr. Chitransh Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.  
Ms. Chitrangda Rashtravara, Adv.

Signature Not Verified  
Digitally signed by  
NARENDRA PRASAD  
Date: 2025.11.21  
16:25:00 IST  
Reason: —

Mr. Kanu Agrawal, Adv.  
Ms. Shivika Mehra, Adv.  
Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Rajesh Kr. Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Madhav Sinhal, Adv.  
Ms. Suhasini Sen, Adv.  
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.  
Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati Ld, A.S.G.  
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.  
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR  
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Singh, Adv.  
Mr. Jagdish Chandra, Adv.  
Mr. Gaurang Bhushan, Adv.  
Ms. Suhashini Sen, Adv.  
Mr. Aman Mehta, Adv.

Mr. Gopal Sankaranarayanan, Sr. Adv.  
Ms. Manali Singhal, Adv.

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Ms. Rupali, Adv.

Mr. Sandeep Kr. Jha, AOR

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Mr. Sudhir Mendiratta, AOR  
Mr. Brvarma Sudhir Mendiratta, Adv.

Mr. Rahul Khurana, AOR

Mr. Lokesh Sinhal, Sr. A.A.G.  
Mr. Rahul Khurana, AOR

Mr. Lokesh Sinhal, Sr. A.A.G.  
Mr. B.k. Satija, A.A.G.  
Mr. Rakesh Kumar Mudgal, A.A.G.  
Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR  
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Mr. Nikunj Gupta, Adv.  
Ms. Aakanksha, Adv.  
Ms. Ishika Gupta, Adv.  
Mr. Sarthak Arya, Adv.

Ms. Drishti Rawal, Adv.  
Mr. Sarthak Shrivastava, Adv.  
Mr. Mayur Goyal, Adv.  
Ms. Seema Sindhu, Adv.  
Ms. Kirti, Adv.  
Ms. Richa Verma, Adv.  
Mr. Ravi Vashisht, Adv.

Mr. P. K. Jain, AOR  
Mr. Ramesh Babu M. R., AOR  
Mr. Rajesh Kumar Chaurasia, AOR

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Mr. Hardeep Singh Anand, AOR  
Mr. Sandeep Narain, AOR

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Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv.  
Mr. Santhosh K, Adv.  
Mrs. Devika A.l., Adv.

Ms. Nandini Gidwaney, AOR  
Mrs. Rani Chhabra, AOR  
Mr. G. Prakash, AOR  
Ms. Shalini Kaul, AOR  
Mr. K. R. Sasiprabhu, AOR  
Mr. Shri Narain, AOR  
Mr. Umesh Kumar Khaitan, AOR  
Mrs. Priya Puri, AOR  
Ms. Manjula Gupta, AOR  
Mrs. K. Sarada Devi, AOR  
Mr. Sanjay Kumar Visen, AOR  
Mr. Rajiv Ranjan Dwivedi, AOR  
M/S. Khaitan & Co., AOR  
Mr. T. V. Ratnam, AOR  
Mr. Balaji Srinivasan, AOR  
Mr. Aniruddha Deshmukh, AOR  
Mr. Ravindra Bana, AOR  
Mr. S. S. Shroff, AOR  
Mr. Sushil Kumar Jain, AOR  
Mr. Abhishek, AOR

Mr. Sarvam Ritam Khare, AOR  
Mr. Kushagra Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Akarsh Khare, Adv.

Mr. Surya Kant, AOR  
Mrs. B. Sunita Rao, AOR

Mr. Mohit D. Ram, AOR

Mr. Alok Gupta, AOR  
Mr. Pramod Dayal, AOR  
Mr. R. P. Gupta, AOR  
Mr. P. Parmeswaran, AOR  
Mr. Rakesh Kumar-i, AOR  
Mr. Satya Mitra, AOR  
M/S. M. V. Kini & Associates, AOR  
Mr. Pavan Kumar, AOR  
Mr. Parijat Sinha, AOR  
M/S. Saharya & Co., AOR  
Mr. Ejaz Maqbool, AOR  
M/S. S. Narain & Co., AOR

Mr. Chirag M. Shroff, AOR

Mr. Mahesh Agarwal, Adv.  
Mr. Rohan Talwar, Adv.  
Mr. Naman Agarwal, Adv.  
Mr. E. C. Agrawala, AOR

Ms. Menaka Guruswamy, Sr. Adv.  
Mr. S Wasim A Qadri, Sr. Adv.  
Mr. Praveen Swarup, AOR  
Mr. Praveen Swarup, Adv.  
Mr. Ajay Bansal, Adv.  
Mr. Devesh Maurya, Adv.  
Mr. Rohit Swarup, Adv.  
Mr. Ravi Kumar, Adv.  
Mr. Krishan Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Prashant Kumar, AOR

Mr. Radha Shyam Jena, AOR  
Ms. Hemantika Wahi, AOR  
Ms. Binu Tamta, AOR  
Mr. V. K. Verma, AOR  
Mr. Ajit Pudussery, AOR

Mr. Shiv Vinayak Gupta, Adv.  
Mrs. Bina Gupta, AOR  
Ms. Anushka Rawal, Adv.  
Ms. Kritika Singh, Adv.

Mr. Ashok Mathur, AOR  
Ms. Pritha Srikumar Iyer, AOR

Mr. Vivek Gupta, AOR  
Mr. Vinay Garg, AOR

M/S. Ram Sankar & Co, AOR  
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Mrs. Ram Sankar, Adv.

Mr. P. Parmeswaran, AOR  
Mr. Durga Dutt, AOR  
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Mr. Kawaljit Singh Bhatia, AOR  
Ms. Surbhi Mehta, AOR  
Mr. Shovan Mishra, AOR  
Ms. G. Indira, AOR  
Mr. Prakash Ranjan Nayak, AOR

Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.  
Mr. Raj Bahadur Yadav, AOR  
Mr. Ashok Kumar B, Adv.  
Mrs. Chitrangda Rastravara, Adv.  
Ms. Shivika Mehra, Adv.  
Mr. Udit Dedhiya, Adv.

Mr. Avijit Mani Tripathi, AOR  
Mr. T.k. Nayak, Adv.

Sameer Kumar, AOR  
Mr. Ajay Pal, AOR  
Mr. Gaurav Kejriwal, AOR

Mr. Sameer Abhyankar, AOR  
Mr. Krishna Rastogi, Adv.  
Ms. Ripul Swati Kumari, Adv.  
Mr. Aryan Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. Shankey Agrawal, AOR  
Mr. Ankit Roy, AOR

Mr. Mukesh Verma, Adv.  
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**ISSUE REGARDING AIR QUALITY IN DELHI**

1. The present issue pertains to the high level of pollution in the city of Delhi. In an attempt to address the said issue, this Court has time and again passed various orders.
2. However, we are of the considered view, that this issue cannot be addressed by way of a temporary solution and that a long-term solution needs to be worked out. Ms. Aparajita Singh, learned Amicus Curiae as well as Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, appearing on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change<sup>1</sup> are *ad-idem* with us on the aforesaid.
3. Learned Amicus Curiae submits that though as per the affidavit filed by the State of Punjab, the number of incidents of stubble burning have been shown to have decreased, there is no reduction in the level of pollution.
4. She further submits that though the State of Punjab and  
1 Hereinafter referred as, MoEF&CC.

Haryana, with the aid of the Union of India, have provided equipments to the farmers as well as the concerned societies - so as to prevent stubble burning, the equipments are not being utilized to the full capacity. She says so relying upon the aforesaid affidavit which demonstrates that even after the reduction in the incidents of the stubble burning, the menace of pollution remains the same.

5. Shri. Gopal Sankarnarayan, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of one of the intervenors submits that taking into consideration the pollution in Delhi, which has rendered the city akin to a gas chamber, all activities (*detailed under Graded Response Action Plan<sup>2</sup> Stage-I, inter-alia, enforcing a strict ban on all construction and demolition activities*) should be prohibited in the city of Delhi throughout the year.
6. Shri. Sankarnarayan has handed over a comprehensive chart detailing the Air Quality Index<sup>3</sup> standard as per the Environmental Protection Agency in the State of California

2 Hereinafter referred as, GRAP.

3 Hereinafter referred as, AQI.

and comparing the same with the corresponding AQI standards in India. Shri. Sankarnarayan submits that the comparison of the AQI standards would show that even when the pollution is categorised as 'unhealthy' in California, it would only show as 'moderately polluted' in India.

7. However, the learned Amicus Curiae as well as the learned Additional Solicitor General of India submit that banning of all construction and demolition activities in the city of Delhi cannot be a solution - to control the menace of pollution.
8. It is not in dispute that GRAP is divided into four stages depending upon the AQI recorded for the relevant period.

The stages of GRAP are detailed below:

STAGE OF GRAP	AQI Level
STAGE-I	201-300
STAGE-II	301-400
STAGE-III	401-450
STAGE-IV	450+

9. As detailed above, restrictions are imposed on the activities that are to be carried out on the basis of the AQI. Such restrictions have been finalised by the experts on the basis

of scientific data. We, however, state with complete candour that we do not possess expertise in this field.

10. We are, therefore, not inclined to accept the submission of Shri. Sankarnarayan that this Court should take the bold decision to stop all construction and demolition activities in the city of Delhi for the entire year.
11. We say so because we cannot lose sight of the fact that a large chunk of population, from various states, depend for their livelihood by engaging in such activities in the city of Delhi. We are thus of the considered view that this Court has to balance the environmental concerns and the development activities, which has also been observed by this Court in catena of judgments.
12. Be that as it may, at the cost of repetition we state that a long-term solution needs to be worked out in order to tackle the menace of pollution, which can be carried out in a graded manner. For that, in our view, a combined action plan by the MoEF&CC along with the adjoining states of

Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan would be necessary.

13. At this juncture, our attention is drawn to the communication dated 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, issued by the Commission of Air Quality<sup>4</sup> in the National Capital Region and the adjoining areas. The said communication would show that the said issue is being considered with requisite sincerity. In the aforesaid communication, the CAQM has stated thus:

“7. The Commission also expressed serious concerns in respect of implementation status of its directions and instructed the Government of Punjab to immediately scale-up their efforts to comply with Commission’s directions in letter and spirit. Further, it was directed that the Deputy Commissioners may immediately initiate actions against the nodal officers and other functionaries under whom higher number of farm fires have been recorded. The Commission

4 Hereinafter referred as, CAQM.

also warned of stern action against Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of districts, if any negligence is noticed in controlling fire incidents.

8. It has also been noticed that there are paddy stubble burning incidences which are not recorded through standard protocol. However, for addressing such issues, the Commission has time and again stressed on stringent supervision, strict implementation and rigorous enforcement of the Action Plan aiming at complete elimination of paddy stubble burning.

9. To this effect, the Commission directed for tagging of specific nodal officers to groups of farmers, covering all farmers in the district with the norm of tagging 50 farmers with each nodal officer. Further, it was also directed for 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 incidence of open paddy stubble burning.”

14. We find that if the aforesaid directions issued by the CAQM to the State of Punjab and the State of Haryana are scrupulously implemented, the issue of stubble burning can be addressed to a large extent.
15. We, therefore, direct the Chief Secretary of both the State of Punjab as well as the State of Haryana to ensure that the said directions issued by the CAQM are scrupulously implemented.
16. Further, Ms. Bhati informs us that the Union of India is taking the issue very seriously and the Hon'ble Minister at MoEF&CC convened a meeting with the Environment Ministers of all the concerned states on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Ms. Bhati states that if a day's time is given, she would obtain necessary instructions from the authorities *viz.*, what further steps could be taken so as to find a long-

term solution to the menace of pollution.

17. We, therefore, adjourn the matter to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025, so that the learned Additional Solicitor General of India can obtain instructions from the concerned authorities at MoEF&CC with regard to the proposed plan of action.
18. At this stage, the learned Amicus Curiae addressed an issue with regard to the efficiency of the Air Quality Monitors installed in the city of Delhi. According to her, the said equipments are outdated and they are not suitable for the capital city. Ms. Bhati counters the said submission and states that the equipments used in the city of Delhi are one of the best available in the world.
19. In view of the aforesaid, we direct the Government of NCT of Delhi to place on record an affidavit/note specifying therein (i) the nature of equipments being used by the Government, and (ii) the efficiency of the equipments to gauge the air quality.

I.A. NOS.122098/2025 & 175183-175184/2025

1. Issue notice.
2. Dasti service, in addition, is granted.

**(NARENDRA PRASAD)**  
**DEPUTY REGISTRAR**

**(ANJU KAPOOR)**  
**ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

ITEM NO.807

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

WRIT PETITION(S)(CIVIL) NO(S). 13029/1985

M.C. MEHTA

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

Date : 17-11-2025 This matter was mentioned today.

CORAM :

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE N.V. ANJARIA

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following  
O R D E R

C.W.P. No.24772/2023

1. On mentioning by Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General, C.W.P. No.24772/2023, which is pending before the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, is directed to be transferred

to this Court and shall be taken up for hearing along with the issue relating to air quality monitoring in W.P.(C) No. 13029/1985, which is fixed for listing on 19.11.2025.

2. On receipt of the record, the Registry of this Court shall process the same as per rules.

3. The Registrar (Judicial-Listing) to ensure that all the papers relating to C.W.P. No.24772/2023 reach this Court prior to 10:30 a.m. on 19.11.2025.

(NARENDRA PRASAD)  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(ANJU KAPOOR)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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MC MEHTA v. UNION OF INDIA

WP (C) 13029/1985

**NOTE ON BEHALF OF UNION OF INDIA IN COMPLIANCE OF  
ORDER DATED 17.11.2025**

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Dated: 18.11.2025

**Status Note on Short term and Long term measures for control of air pollution in Delhi-NCR**

MoEF&CC held a meeting on 18.11.2025 with States/UTs of Delhi-NCR, CAQM and CPCB to review the short term and long term measures to be undertaken by various agencies for control of air pollution in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court given on 17.11.2025.

States/UTs have furnished the short term and long term activities to be undertaken in Delhi- NCR. Accordingly, MoEF&CC has prepared the following short term and long term measures to be undertaken in Delhi-NCR for control of air pollution along with State/UT specific Short term & long term measures to be implemented for control of Air Pollution.

**(1) Long term and short term measures applicable to all States/UTs**

**Short- term measures**

**Dust and Road Dust Mitigation measures**

- i. CAQM to issue directions to Municipal Commissioners of Delhi-NCR to identify category of roads for Mechanized Road Sweeping Machines (MRSMs) and on that basis norm to be fixed for minimum number of MRS to be deployed in each category of road. Deployment of adequate mechanical road sweepers, water sprinklers and anti-smog guns.
- ii. Installation of mist-spray systems on electric poles in and around identified pollution hotspots.
- iii. MRSMs machines will be tagged and monitored through GPS. The route and timing of operation of MRSMs will be kept in the public domain for transparency.

**Construction and Demolition (C&D) Management**

- i. Mandatory registration and monitoring of all construction and demolition projects above 500 sq. m on the SPCB portal.

- ii. Inclusion of standardized dust mitigation clauses in all sanctioned building plans and mandatory display of SPCB registration certificates at project sites.
- iii. Anti-smog guns and wetting of surface along with covering of raw material to be made mandatory.
- iv. Deterrent closure, prosecution and imposition of environmental compensation against the violating projects.
- v. No construction activity shall be allowed in GRAP-3 and 4 as per CAQM directions.
- vi. Intensify actions through strict monitoring for prevention of stubble / open burning, emission from C&D activities.

#### Vehicular Pollution Control

- i. Strict enforcement of Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate. Continuous and effective enforcement/ action by Transport Department and Traffic Police against vehicles operating without valid PUC certificates and emitting visible emissions.

#### DG Set and Backup Power Emissions

- i. Enforcement of restrictions on non-compliant DG sets and permitting only CAQM-compliant, cleaner-fuel/retrofitted DG sets.

#### Industrial Pollution and Enforcement

- i. Intensifying visits/inspections of polluting units in notified industrial areas and closure of non-compliant units.
- ii. Enforcement of the approved fuel list, including ban on coal.

#### Governance, Enforcement & GRAP Implementation

- i. Enforcement of actions under various stages of Graded Response Action Plan.
- ii. Action by Enforcement teams for dust control, Open biomass burning Control, Industrial Pollution Control and Vehicular Pollution Control.
- iii. Daily monitoring and compliance reporting during GRAP stages.
- iv. Public Grievance Platforms such as Social Media (X), Sameer App for registering public complaints and prompt resolution of complaints to be done by State Authorities.

- v. Enhancement of Teams to be deployed by the States/UTs for random supervision and monitoring.

#### Crop Residue Management

- i. Implementation of Annual Action Plan for complete elimination of paddy stubble burning.
- ii. In-situ management:
  - Ensure mandatory utilization records and daily machine logs for all CHCs.
  - Ensure strict compliance with after-sales service by empanelled firms for CRM machinery.
  - Deploy village-level machine calendars to maximize utilisation during the short sowing window.
  - Provide incentives to already established CHCs to strengthen the CHCs.
  - Facilitate MoUs between FPOs/cooperatives and industries for assured straw procurement before harvesting season.
  - Increase area under short duration varieties.
- iii. Arrange farmers visit (esp. farmers from hot spot blocks/villages) to demonstrations fields for seeing the in-situ and ex-situ management strategies and the results.
- iv. Run 8-week radio and TV campaigns statewide in peak harvest months.
- v. Engage district administration, KVKs, Agriculture Department, Panchayats, and NGOs in mass awareness.
- vi. Form "Zero-Burning Village Teams" involving students, youth clubs, and CHCs.
- vii. Promote on-ground demonstrations of CRM machinery.
- viii. Recognize and award best CHCs and high-utilization operators annually.

#### **Long-term measures**

#### Dust and Road Dust Mitigation measures

- i. Municipal Commissioners of ULBs of Delhi-NCR shall prepare a plan for road-side plantation.
- ii. Implement urban road redevelopment plans as per CAQM standard framework.

- iii. Construction of dust free roads and pot hole free roads
- iv. Widening of roads and construction of footpaths along main roads are to be undertaken by road maintaining agencies.
- v. Expand mechanised sweeping by including less than 60 feet roads.
- vi. Carry out a performance assessment study of Anti-Smog Gun (ASG) being used.
- vii. Install fixed anti-smog systems at high-traffic hotspots.
- viii. Greening of flyovers, roundabouts, and road medians with dust-trapping shrubs.
- ix. Identification of traffic congestion points and addressing / de-congesting the same

#### Construction and Demolition (C&D) Management

- i. Municipal Commissioners of all Districts to prepare comprehensive plan for requirement and identification of Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste collection & recycling centers based on population to be served, plan for increasing the number of existing centers, requirement of manpower based on the capacity of these centers.
- ii. Expand C&D waste processing capacity to 100%.
- iii. Achievement of full off-take of C&D recycled products.
- iv. In order to resolve the issue of pricing of recycled C&D products, schedule of rates developed by CPWD for certain recycled products will be provided by MoHUA to Delhi-NCR States so that a rate is also incorporated in concerned State's schedule of rates.

#### Vehicular Pollution Control

- i. Transition to EV-based public transport, including buses, feeder services, and last-mile mobility. In order to promote public transport and e-mobility, fleet of e-buses/e-vehicles are to be increased.
- ii. Complete Phase out of diesel autos from the Delhi-NCR area.
- iii. Strengthening of EV charging infrastructure.
- iv. Establish solar-powered charging hubs at depots and parking lots.
- v. Deploy AI-based Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS) with ANPR and automated challans.
- vi. Implement city-wide parking management with smart pricing.

- vii. Installation of ANPR cameras and public display boards at border entry points for enforcement against non-compliant vehicles.
- viii. Expansion of public transport including Metro network on mission mode
- ix. Steps to be initiated for the transition of motor vehicles aggregators, delivery service providers and e-commerce entities to cleaner mobility (CNG/Electric vehicles).
- x. Adequate number of Registered Vehicles Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) to be established to fast-track scrapping of End of Life (EoL) vehicles.

#### Industrial Pollution and Enforcement

- i. The report of the study for revised emissions norms for three sectors, i.e. textile, food processing and metal by IIT Kanpur has been received. CPCB to constitute an expert committee to study the report and finalize the action points in consultation with CAQM.
- ii. CPCB to review functionality of the OCEMS portal to ensure that all its features such as SMS alert system, emission data visualization are working properly.
- iii. Installation of OCEMS in the balance identified 2254 industries shall be expedited.
- iv. Installation of Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) in the identified air polluting industries in Delhi NCR needs to be expedited.
- v. The PNG supply in all the industrial areas of NCR need to be ensured.
- vi. Stringent emissions norms for the industries in the NCR area as per directions of CAQM

#### Crop Residue Management

##### In-situ management:

- i. Crop Diversification to be promoted to reduce paddy cultivation.
- ii. Target to achieve 'Nil' active fire locations.
- iii. Timely analysis of CRM machines gap at district level and to arrange the same well before harvesting season.
- iv. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) to review the operational status of CRM machines provided to the Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) from

01<sup>st</sup> December 2025 onwards continuously for the entire year. A comprehensive plan may also be prepared for the entire duration, i.e. end of current harvesting season and start of next harvesting season. Responsibility may be fixed on Deputy Commissioners and even up to Block/Tehsil level. Skill Development and provision for skill training for operation of CRM machines to be provided.

- v. CRM machines are to be GPS tracked and monitored
- vi. Teams consisting of officials from Agriculture Department and Revenue Department in each district shall take prompt action in case farm fires.

#### Ex-situ management:

- i. More Compressed Biogas Plants based on paddy straw are to be established.
- ii. More pellets manufacturing plants are to be established.
- iii. Co-firing of biomass in the Thermal Power plants (upto 5%) to be increased.

#### Solid Waste Management

- i. CAQM to review Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) management in NCR cities and progress in liquidation of legacy waste. Monthly targets need to be fixed and progress to be presented by CAQM in the next review meeting.
- ii. Waste to Energy Plants, MSW processing and C&D waste processing facilities are to be established to achieve 100% saturation.
- iii. Setup the supply chain for timely pickup of bales from the field and utilization of the same.
- iv. Implement a multi-year Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) strategy to eliminate stubble burning culture.

#### Green Area Development

- i. In order to achieve the tree plantation target of One Crore trees during 2025-26. All NCR States need to identify the degraded forest land in the Delhi-NCR and start preparation of plant nurseries.
- ii. Every district of NCR to prepare green area management plan.
- iii. Use treated STP water for irrigation of green belts.

#### IEC, Governance & Policy

- i. Institutionalize CRM Control Rooms in all districts with monthly KPI-based reviews.
- ii. Make stubble management a permanent curriculum component in DoA&FW, KVK and PAU training programs.
- iii. Introduce school-level campaigns.

## **(2) Long term and short term measures applicable specific to Govt. of NCT**

### **Delhi:**

#### **Short term measures:**

- i. Regular lifting of C&D waste from the listed 132 sites listed by the 3 Urban Local Bodies (MCD: 106, NDMC: 25 and DCB: 1) **(Proposed)**.
- ii. Providing electric heaters to RWAs for security guards to prevent open biomass burning **(Proposed)**.
- iii. Addition of 6 new air quality monitoring locations **(Proposed)**.
- iv. 40 additional trips from 19.10.2025 and 20 more trips from 11.11.2025 increased by DMRC.
- v. Closed monitoring of Landfills to reduce incidences of fires and pollution.
- vi. Pilot for artificial rain as an air pollution mitigation strategy in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.
- vii. Intensive deployment of mechanical road sweepers (76), water sprinklers (271), anti-smog guns (386).
- viii. Delhi Traffic Police to submit the action plan and its implementation status for the resolution of 62 identified traffic congestion points in Delhi. Similarly, identification of Traffic hotspots and their resolution shall be taken up by 5 high vehicle density Districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gautam Budh Nagar and Sonipat by respective State Governments **(Proposed)**.

#### **Long term measures (Proposed):**

- i. Complete liquidation of 149 lakh MT legacy municipal solid waste by 2027.
- ii. Expand waste-to-energy capacity for 100% waste treatment.
- iii. 100% door-to-door waste collection and segregation.
- iv. Increase annual plantation to over 75 lakh trees using Miyawaki forests.

## **(3) Long term and short term measures applicable specific to Uttar Pradesh:**

**Short term measures:**

- i. 18 Dust Control and Management Cells constituted in 08 districts of NCR-UP to control dust from road and open areas.
- ii. Average 990.38 km of road length is being swept mechanically daily by 50 MRSMs, 415 Water Sprinklers and 235 Anti-Smog Guns deployed for abatement of air pollution.
- iii. 34 teams have been constituted by UPPCB for regular monitoring of air pollution sources and enforcement of GRAP direction issued by CAQM.
- iv. 1003 Construction and Demolition projects have been registered on Dust App portal of UPPCB and the same are being monitored remotely as well as by means of physical inspection for ensuring compliance with C&D waste management rules.
- v. 2531 air polluting industries have been identified in NCR-UP which are regularly being monitored by the teams of UPPCB.
- vi. Total 277 Air Polluting Red Category (Large and Medium Scale) units have been identified out of which 206 units have already installed Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS). State Board has issued directions to the remaining units to install OCEMS by 31.12.2025.
- vii. 18 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) have been installed in NCR-UP. Regular calibration and operation of all CAAQMS is being ensured by the State Board.
- viii. For Diversion and restriction of entry of prohibited vehicles in Delhi-NCR, 25 check points have been made functional in neighbouring NCR-UP districts.

**Long term measures:**

To strengthen the ambient air quality monitoring network, 10 additional Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) are being installed in NCR-UP (**Proposed**).

**(4) Long term and short term measures applicable specific to Rajasthan:****Short term measures:**

- i. Strengthening of Air Quality Monitoring Network :-

(47)

- Existing- 4 CAAQMS, 2 mobile AAQMS & 9 manual monitoring stations.
  - 4 CAAQMS & 5 manual monitoring stations (**Proposed**).
- ii. During Oct 24 to Sept 25, total 7908 inspections carried, 140 units found non-compliant, 54 closure directions issued against gross violators and EC imposed against 38 units, 217 non-complying DG sets sealed. Besides, during GRAP period from 14.10.2025 to 16.11.2025, 1164 inspections of industrial units/DG sets/ Hotels/Mining Leases/ Stone crushers were conducted and closure directions issued against 2 non-complying industrial units and 10 non complying DG sets sealed.
  - iii. 83 inspections of illegal dump sites conducted and action taken against 15 cases. 17 cases of open burning incidents reported and action taken against defaulters.
  - iv. 5361 inspections of C&D sites with area 500 m<sup>2</sup> and above and 8593 inspections for area < 500 square meters have been conducted by the concerned departments during the October 2024 to September 2025. Closure directions issued against 26 non complaint sites. Besides, during GRAP period from 14.10.2025 to 16.11.2025, 2189 inspections of C&D sites were conducted and closure directions issued against 2 non-complying C&D sites and EC/penalty imposed on 22 C&D sites.
  - v. Intensify frequency of water sprinkling (40 tankers), road sweeping (10 Mechanical Road Sweeping Machines), and use of anti-smog guns (18 ASG) for abatement of road dust (**Proposed**).
  - vi. Intensification of registrations and monitoring of C&D sites having plot area equal and more than 500 square meter on the State Govt. (RAJCONESS) portal. Presently, 198 C&D sites are registered on RAJCONESS (**Proposed**).
  - vii. Intensify actions for abating air pollution from sources of vehicles and transport. Actions have been taken against 17499 vehicles for invalid PUC, 6147 for visibly polluting/overloaded vehicles, 37,000 for parking violation during October 2024 to September 2025 by the Department of Transport & Traffic Police. Besides, during GRAP period from 14.10.2025 to 16.11.2025, actions have been taken against 2613 vehicles for invalid PUC, 193 for visibly polluting/overloaded vehicles.

**Long term measures:**

- i. Redevelopment of 47.45 KM Road length in Bhiwadi & Neemrana as per the standard framework developed by the CAQM **(Proposed)**.
- ii. PNG supply available in all industrial areas of Bhiwadi and 05 industrial areas of Alwar (Ghiloth, Neemrana, Shjahapur, Behror , Sotanala) .
- iii. Target for PNG Supply in MIA Alwar by the end of June, 2026. The work of PNG pipeline in the Brij Industrial area, Bharatpur is being carried out by GAIL **(Proposed)**.
- iv. Remediation of remaining 29797 cubic meter Legacy waste at Dumpsite of Bharatpur to be completed **(Proposed)**.
- v. Solid Waste processing plant (Composting) in Alwar: 156 TPD operational. Presently, one MRF of 10 TPD operational. Bhiwadi: Proposed (Capacity 56 TPD Under construction).Presently, one MRF of 10 TPD operational. Bharatpur: Proposed solid waste processing plant 135.4 TPD, work is in the advance stage. Presently, one MRF of 5 TPD capacity is operational **(Proposed)**.
- vi. C& D processing plant of 50 TPD capacity is under construction at Alwar. Expected completion by March, 2026 **(Proposed)**.
- vii. Action for phasing out remaining 995 diesel Auto rickshaw in NCR by the stipulated time frame of 31.12.2026 **(Proposed)**

**(5) Long term and short term measures applicable specific to Haryana:****Short term measures:**

- i. More than 10000 nodal officers tagged with the group of 50/100 farmers for which they are directly responsible.
- ii. FIR, environmental compensation and red entries are being made against the defaulting farmers.
- iii. Incentives of Rs.1200 per acre for not engaged in stubble burning.
- iv. Actions such as suspension, show cause, against the nodal officers in whose area AFL's are reported.

- v. Remote monitoring through continuous emission monitoring devices installed in more than 900 industries.
- vi. As per CAQM directions, the diesel autos are banned in the NCR districts of Faridabad and Gurugram w.e.f. 31.12.2024 and directions regarding not to give fuel to any diesel auto at the petrol pumps has been issued by Transport department.
- vii. As per direction no. 70 of CAQM, the registration of new diesel autos banned w.e.f. 01.01.2023.
- viii. Challans issued for invalid PUC certificates during January to October, 2025 (325989 numbers of challan issued during this period).
- ix. During the year 2025 (till October, 2025) 229 nos. visibly polluting vehicles in Gurugram and 56 nos. visibly polluting vehicles in Faridabad have been challaned.
- x. During the year 2025 (till October, 2025) 229 nos. visibly polluting vehicles in Gurugram and 56 nos. visibly polluting vehicles in Faridabad have been challaned.
- xi. 22 numbers DCMCs cells of road owning agencies has been constituted through which the progress of greening of central verges/paving of road sides/deployment of water sprinklers/MRSMs/ Anti smog guns/dust collectors are being monitored.
- xii. An action plan has been prepared and submitted to CAQM for construction of dust free roads. Out of 603 Km target for the year 2025-26, 70.18 Km has been completed and rest will be completed by 31st March, 2026.
- xiii. A State-level Project Monitoring Agency (PMA) for coordinated monitoring and reporting is under consideration at the Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Haryana.

**Long term measures:**

- i. Increase the ambit of remote monitoring of industries through CEMS. Already directions issued to more than 1100 industries to install the CEMS.
- ii. Portal will be created wherein, web link will be created for each industries having stack emissions for remote monitoring of smoke emitting from the industries
- iii. State Government collaborated with World Bank and created Haryana Clean Air Project for Sustainable Development with a corpus of Rs. 3600 Crores for a

significant improvement in the air quality over the next 05 years. The major interventions are as under:

- A total of 1000 industries to be incentivized to purchase "new" boilers running on PNG/CNG/gaseous fuels.
- 1,000 DG sets to be incentivized to run on hybrid/dual fuel mode/RECD.
- 500 e-buses will be procured to switch to clean transport,
- Further diesel autos will be phased out and 50,000 E-Autos will be incentivized to switch clean transport,
- Robust monitoring infrastructure and also command control center will be established in the State.
- 500 KMs Dust free road will be constructed to reduce the road dust emissions and as a pilot which can be extra polated for rest of the urban roads,
- 02 numbers of common boilers will be setup in the industrial clusters,
- 02 Numbers of Tunnel kilns will be setup on pilot basis to reduce the brick kiln emissions and which will be extra polated on success.
- 10 numbers CAAQMs stations with real time source apportionment capability will be installed.
- 01 CAAQM mobile van with real time source apportionment capability will be provided.

**(6) Long term and short term measures applicable specific to Punjab:**

**Measures implemented:**

The State of Punjab has continued to make significant strides in the in situ and ex-situ management of paddy straw during the year 2025, building upon the initiatives undertaken in 2024 and lessons learnt in previous years.

**i. In situ Management**

- Large-scale distribution of Crop Residue Management (CRM) machines and establishment of custom hiring centres aid small and marginal farmers.
- 1,48,000 CRM Machinery has been Provided from 2018-19 till date.
- During current year 2025-26 special focus was given on promoting

custom hiring centres and in the annual action plan a target of 1500 custom hiring centres was fixed for the year 2025-26 in comparison to target of only 500 CHCs in 2024.

- 22 paddy supply chain centres have been established in the state to develop/strengthen supply chain of paddy.
- Mapping of entire Machinery has been done.
- Unnat Kissan App 2.0 launched in 2025 which facilitates:-
  - Mapping of CRM machines.
  - Real-time booking by farmers.
  - Daily reporting of machine utilization by officers.
  - Single platform for machine rental.
- In-situ management in the state of paddy straw has steadily increased from 6.45 million tonnes in 2020-21 to an estimated 11.4 million tonnes in 2025.

Sr. No.	Strategy	Paddy Straw Utilization (million tonne)				
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2024	2025 (till date)
1	in-Situ management	6.45	8.13	9.44	12.7	11.4

- Taking lessons from previous years, Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) in 2025 established through rural entrepreneurs, panchayats, cooperatives & FPOs to ensure easy access of machinery to small/marginal farmers.
  - Efforts strengthened through IEC campaigns, capacity building, and enforcement measures against stubble burning.
- ii. Reducing Generation of Paddy Straw and Crop Diversification
- Promotion of short & medium duration paddy varieties to reduce residue. Out of total area under paddy this year, **around 80% was under short to medium duration varieties of paddy this year 2025 which is a significant jump from last years.**
  - Use of short-duration paddy varieties (PR-126) is promoted to reduce straw load and provide more time for land preparation.
  - Digital interventions include mobile apps for machine booking and

monitoring (Unnat Kisan).

- An incentive of Rs. 1500/ acre for sowing of paddy through Direct Seeding method. An area of 2.93 Lakh acres has been sown using DSR method.
- In addition to above, Crop diversification efforts (maize, cotton) are increasing with incentives to reduce paddy straw generation.
  - Incentive of Rs 17500/ha to farmers for diversifying to maize.
  - Area under maize increased to 1.06 lakh ha in 2025.
  - Area under cotton increased to 1.19 lakh ha in 2025.

iii. Ex Situ Management

- Ex-situ management (including industrial boilers, pelletization, CBG plants, biomass power) has increased from **0.92 million tonnes in 2020-21** to an estimated 7.06 million tonnes in 2025

Sr. No.	Strategy	Paddy Straw Utilization (million tonne)				
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2024	2025 (Estimated)
1	Ex-Situ management	0.92	1.217	1.514	5.96	7.06

- Industrial **boilers** straw consumption grew significantly from **8.8 lakh tonnes in 2022** to a projected **41 lakh tonnes in 2025**.

S.No.	Year	Quantity of paddy straw used as fuel in industrial boilers (in lac tonnes)
1	2022	8.80
2	2023	20.70
3	2024	35.00
4	2025 (estimated)	41.00

- Pelletization plants expanded from 18 in 2024 to 37 operational plants in 2025, with 34 more under setup, targeting 17 lakh tonnes annual consumption. It is noteworthy to mention that there was no palletization plant in the state in 2020
- Compressed Biogas (CBG) plants expanded from 4 operational in 2024 to 6 in 2025, with 42 more proposed, scaling capacity considerably.

- Biomass power plants increased utilization from 10 lakh tonnes in 2024 to 11.7 lakh tonnes in 2025.
  - Thermal power plants increased usage from 1.85 lakh tonnes in 2024 to over 5.16 lakh tonnes upto Oct 2025 this year, with further expected upscaling to nearly 12 Lakh tonnes by March 2026.
- iv. Enforcement measures
- In the current year 10500 Field Functionaries have been appointed to monitor and contain the stubble fire incidents in comparison to 9500 officers deployed in last year 2024.
  - Prali Protection Force (PPF) of 1700 personal has been constituted and deputed at Block level over and above the nodal/cluster officers for effective enforcements of measures to prevent and control stubble burning.
  - Micro management of stubble is being carried out at village level.
  - Hotspot areas have been identified.
  - Extra police force has been deployed in hotspot areas to render special assistance to the nodal and cluster officers.
  - District specific action plans have been prepared and are being implemented.
  - Regular monthly review at the Level Chief Secretary Punjab with DCs/SSPs  
As a result the Stubble Fire incidents have shown a considerable decline this year in comparison to last years

Year	2023	2024	2025
Period	15th of September to 17 <sup>th</sup> of November		
<b>Cumulative active fire events</b>	33082	8404	5003

**Short term measures (Proposed):**

- i. Provide 15000 additional CRM units in 2026, in addition to the 1.18 lakh machines already provided on subsidy (total 1.48 lakh provided less 40,000 which have completed their operational life).
- ii. Especial focus will be made on hotspot districts/ villages to ensure sufficient number of CRM machines.

- iii. Achieve 100% digital mapping of CRM machines on Unnat Kisan 2.0 by April 2026 to track utilization.
- iv. Establish 500 additional Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) in 2026 with rent-free access for all small & marginal farmers.
- v. Increase ex-situ utilization to 7.5 million tonnes in 2026.
- vi. Operationalize at least 8-10 new CBG plants by 2026 (existing: 6; pipeline: 42).
- vii. Achieve about 42-43 lakh tonnes utilization through industrial boilers in 2026. Ensure that maximum industries obtain benefit of capital subsidy scheme of the Government of Punjab.
- viii. Expand pellet manufacturing to 20-22 lakh tonnes annual capacity.
- ix. Add 50-60 decentralized storage sheds and bale aggregation points.
- x. Ensure that the Thermal Power plants achieve 7% Blending capacity utilization of coal with paddy straw pellets.
- xi. Take steps for the vacation of stay granted to Brick kilns by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court with regard to directions issued by Government of Punjab to utilize 20% paddy straw pellets as fuel in brick kilns. The State will also notify progressive utilization of 20%, 30%, 40% and 50% paddy straw pellets as fuel in the brick kilns in 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 as per CAQM directions.
- xii. Conduct 4,000+ awareness camps across paddy-growing villages during the 2026 season.
- xiii. Install 3,000 mandi hoardings highlighting residue management practices and penalties for burning
- xiv. Deploy 12,000+ field staff for monitoring and hotspot verification in 2026. Additionally to increase workforce to 3000 from existing 1700 in Parali Protection Force.
- xv. Ensure 100% satellite-linked hotspot verification with PRSC (Punjab Remote Sensing Centre).

**Long term measures (Proposed):**

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The long-term plan aims to structurally transform Punjab's stubble management ecosystem through diversified agriculture, expanded industrial utilization, and permanent supply-chain infrastructure and to ensure fulfilment of target to achieve **zero stubble burning by 2028**.

**A. In-situ Management (Structural, 3–5 Years)**

- i. Reach sustained availability of CRM machines by 2030 w.r.t. area under paddy.
- ii. Engage with research institutes to develop/ Introduce **next-generation low-cost CRM machinery** suited for small/fragmented fields.
- iii. Promote **crop diversification** and reduce acreage under paddy by 7 lakh hectares.

**B. Ex-situ Management (Structural, 3–5 Years)**

The Government of Punjab will create the following infrastructure for maximum usage of paddy straw during the next 3 to 5 years.

- i. Develop biomass industrial parks with common boilers (1–2 lakh TPA demand).
- ii. Maximum CBG plants will be made operational for the usage of 10-12 Lakh Ton of paddy straw within 3-5 years.
- iii. Pellet production capacity will be increased for the usage of 25-30 lakh ton of paddy straw in the thermal plants, Brick kilns and industries within 3-5 years.
- iv. Utilization of about 6 Million Ton of paddy straw in industrial boilers will be achieved within next 3-5 years
- v. Covered storage infrastructure for permanent bale storage depots will be increased to 250-300.
- vi. Create a long-term farmer–industry contracts to stabilize markets.

**Minutes of Meeting on “Air Pollution Control in Delhi - NCR” under the chairmanship of Secretary, EF&CC on 18.11.2025**

A virtual meeting under the chairmanship of **Secretary, EF&CC** was held on **18.11.2025 at 10 AM** to review the measures taken for control of air pollution in Delhi-NCR in compliance of the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court given on 17.11.2025.

2. List of participants is at **Annexure-1** and the presentation made by MoEFCC is at **Annexure-2**.

3. It was mention that, review meetings on 'Air Pollution Control in NCR-Delhi' have been held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC on 08.08.2025, 16.09.2025, 10.10.2025 and 11.11.2025. Further, a meeting was held under joint chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC on 07.10.2025 to review measures taken to address paddy stubble burning and measures for ex-situ and in-situ biomass utilization. A review meeting was also held under the chairmanship of Secretary, EF&CC on 01.10.2025. The decisions taken in these meetings have already been shared with all concerned for compliance. The participants were directed to take actions on the decisions of these meetings as well as to monitor their implementation closely so as to improve the air quality in Delhi-NCR region.

4. After the deliberations and discussions on the compliance on the decisions taken in the meeting held on 11.11.2025, the following decisions were taken:

(i) Brief Note on short term & long term measures implemented, and short term & long term measures proposed to be implemented for control of air pollution in Delhi-NCR, along with timelines are to be shared by States/UTs.

**(Action: Chief Secretaries, ACS/PS of Environment Department & Chairman, SPCB of States/UTs of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi)**

(ii) Status Note on long term and short term measures for control of air pollution in Delhi-NCR already issued as part of directions to States/UTs of NCR along with proposed short term measures are also to be submitted by 12 noon today.

**(Action: CAQM)**

(iii) There should be an increase in the frequency of inspections and more number of random/surprise inspections be conducted by the respective States/UTs to monitor the implementation of CAQM instructions.

**(Action: Chief Secretaries, ACS/PS of Environment Department & Chairman, SPCB of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi)**

(iv) The above mentioned information is to be submitted by 12.00 PM today (18.11.2025) at email: [v.pazhaniyandi@nic.in](mailto:v.pazhaniyandi@nic.in) & [ncap.moefcc@gov.in](mailto:ncap.moefcc@gov.in), to enable the MoEF&CC for preparing a consolidated note by today for submission to Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**(Action: CAQM, Chief Secretaries, ACS/PS of Env. Dept. and Chairman SPCB of States/UTs of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi)**

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the participants.

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**List of participants****1. MoEF &CC**

- i. Shri Tanmay Kumar, Secretary
- ii. Shri Vir Vikram Yadav, Additional Secretary, MoEFCC and Chairman, CPCB
- iii. Shri Pazhaniyandi V Pillai, Director, CP Division
- iv. Shri N.Subrahmanyam, Scientist-E, CP Division
- v. Shri Mukhesh Balodhi, Scientist-D, CP Division

**2. CAQM**

- i. Shri Rajesh Verma, Chairperson
- ii. Shri Tarun Kumar Pithode, Member Secretary
- iii. Dr. S. D. Attri, Member (Technical)

**3. CPCB**

- i. Shri Pankaj Agarwal, Scientist-F
- ii. Shri Ankush Tewani, Scientist-E

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- i. Shri Anand Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department
- ii. Shri Ravi Kumar Surpur, Chairman, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
- iii. Shri Sharda Pratap Singh, Member Secretary, Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board

**5. Uttar Pradesh**

- i. Shri Shashi Prakash Goyal, Chief Secretary
- ii. Shri Anil Kumar, Principal Secretary, Environment Department
- iii. Dr. Ravindra Pratap Singh, Chairman, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board
- iv. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board

**6. Haryana**

- i. Shri Anurag Rastogi, Chief Secretary
- ii. Shri Vineet Garg, Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board
- iii. Shri Pardeep Kumar, Member Secretary, Haryana State Pollution Control Board

**7. Punjab**

- i. Shri K.A.P. Sinha, Chief Secretary
- ii. Shri Arshdeep Singh Thind, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare
- iii. Mrs. Reena Gupta, Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board
- iv. Shri Arpit Shukla, DGP (Law & Order)
- v. Dr. Lavneet Dubey, Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board

**8. Delhi**

- i. Shri Rajeev Verma, Chief Secretary
- ii. Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Secretary, Environment Department
- iii. Shri Sandeep Kumar, Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
- iv. Shri Sandeep Mishra, Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee
- v. Shri Leela Dhar Meghwal, Additional Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi
- vi. Shri P.C. Meena, Engineer-in-Chief, Municipal Corporation of Delhi

ITEM NOS.8 + 12

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 13029/1985

M.C. MEHTA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA &amp; ORS.

Respondent(s)

(1) NOTE ON BEHALF OF AMICUS CURIAE ON AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA.

WITH

TRANSFERRED CASE (CIVIL) NO(S). 148/2025 (XVI-A)

Date : 19-11-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

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UPON hearing the counsel, the Court made the following  
 O R D E R

**ISSUE REGARDING AIR QUALITY IN DELHI**

1. In pursuance to our order dated 17.11.2025, Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General of India (ASG) informs the Court that a meeting was convened by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC) and it was attended by the senior officers from all the concerned States including the Chief Secretaries of the States of Uttar Pradesh,

Haryana, Punjab, the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and the Additional Chief Secretary of the State of Rajasthan. Additionally, the Chairpersons of Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) were also present for the said meeting, which was conducted on 18.11.2025.

2. Learned ASG has placed a note showing various short-term and long-term measures, which are being implemented to control the pollution. The same is taken on record.
3. Ms. Aprajita Singh, learned *Amicus Curiae* has raised a concern that though, in principle, there are measures in place, the reality on ground shows that such measures have not been effectively executed to reduce pollution. She therefore submits that the issue lies in the implementation of the measures adopted.
4. She has also raised an issue with regard to non-filling of the vacancies in the Pollution Control Boards across the State.
5. Ms. Shyel Trehan, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the Association of Construction Workers working in all the National Capital Region (NCR) States submits that though almost a week has passed after the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)- 3 regulations have been brought into force, subsistence allowance has not yet been paid to the workers.
6. In our order dated 17.11.2025 we had already expressed a concern that on account of ban on construction activities, the labourers who depend on the same are deprived of their livelihood. However, we are informed that the States are enjoined to pay subsistence allowance to them.

7. We, therefore, direct all the States falling within the NCR region to take instructions with regard to payment of subsistence allowance and to inform the Court about the same on the next date.

8. Insofar as implementation of the various measures is concerned, we are of the view that it will be appropriate that this court, rather than pressing the matter when the pollution is at its peak, should regularly monitor the same so that the implementation of preventive measures and review of the same can be done periodically.

9. We, therefore, find that it would be appropriate that the matter is listed on a monthly basis, wherein the Action Taken Reports of the MOEF&CC, CAQM and the various States are reviewed by this Court regularly.

10. Ms. Bhati, learned ASG has also handed over a note on behalf of CAQM, which is taken on record. As per the said note, the CAQM proposes to put some of the activities prohibited under GRAP-3 to GRAP-1/GRAP-2 period.

11. We are of the considered view that any pro-active action by the CAQM aimed at reducing the air pollution level would always be welcome. However, we expect from the CAQM that while taking such a decision, they must consider all the factors and take the various stakeholders on board. Subject to above, the suggestions of CAQM in the note mentioned above are accepted.

12. The notes submitted on behalf of both MOEF&CC and CAQM are directed to be placed on record.

13. The learned *Amicus Curiae* has also raised a concern over most of the schools in the NCR Region having their sports

events/competitions in the months of November and December, which is the period during which the air quality deteriorates sharply, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) is poor/severe. It is further submitted that this would amount to virtually putting the school going children in a "gas chamber".

14. We, therefore, request the CAQM to take into consideration this aspect of the matter and issue necessary directions to the concerned States so that the sports events/competitions/activities could be shifted to safer months.

15. List the matter on 10.12.2025.

16. Since one of us (B.R. Gavai, Chief Justice of India) is sitting in the proceedings in W.P.(C) NO.13029/1985 for the last time, we place on record our deep appreciation for Ms. Aprajita Singh, Ms. Uttra Babbar and Ms. Shibani Ghosh, learned *Amicus Curiae* in assisting this Court for a long period of time and ensuring that the environmental issues with regard to pollution are addressed by this Court. Without their valuable assistance, this Court could not have discharged its duties in the manner in which the Constitution mandates.

17. We also place on record our deep appreciation for Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned ASG for not treating this an adversarial litigation and assisting the Court in passing pro-active orders.

TRANSFERRED CASE (CIVIL) NO(S). 148/2025

1. As per the order dated 17.11.2025 passed by this Court, proceedings which were pending before the High Court of Punjab and Haryana (C.W.P. No.24772/2023) were transferred to this Court and

the same is registered as Transferred Case No.148/2025.

2. The State of Punjab as well as the Union of India are on same page that the order of interim stay passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana is detrimental to the measures taken for the reduction of pollution in the State of Punjab.

3. By the order passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana dated 06.11.2025, the High Court had stayed the notification issued by the State of Punjab directing use of paddy straw pallets as a fuel in Brick Kilns.

4. Nobody can dispute that the emission from paddy straw pallets is much lower as compared to the emission from coal, which is being used on account of the interim order passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana.

5. We, accordingly, stay the order passed by the High Court of Punjab and Haryana dated 06.11.2025.

6. Learned counsel for the petitioner in C.W.P. No.2472 of 2023 submits that the members of Paddy Straw Pallets Manufacturers Association purchase the straw pallets from the farmers at the rate of Rs.1/- to Rs.2/-. However, it is later sold to the deep cleaning manufacturers at an exorbitant rate of Rs.12/- to Rs.13/-.

7. We permit the petitioners to make a representation to the State Government in that regard.

8. If the State Government finds that by virtue of monopolization of sale of the paddy straw pallets by one association, the members of the Brick Kiln Association are being prejudiced, the State would, accordingly, consider taking appropriate action on such representation.

9. To be taken up along with W.P.(C) No.13029/1985 (with the issue relating to Air Quality).

(NARENDRA PRASAD)  
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(ANJU KAPOOR)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

Encl: Notes, as above, are enclosed.

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*[Faint handwritten notes or scribbles]*