

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

Execution Application No. 15 of 2025

IN

Original Application No. 4 of 2013

IN THE MATTER OF:

Sonya Ghosh

...Applicant

VERSUS

State of Haryana & Ors.

...Respondents

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MR. RAJ PANJWANI, SR. ADV. (AMICUS CURIAE)

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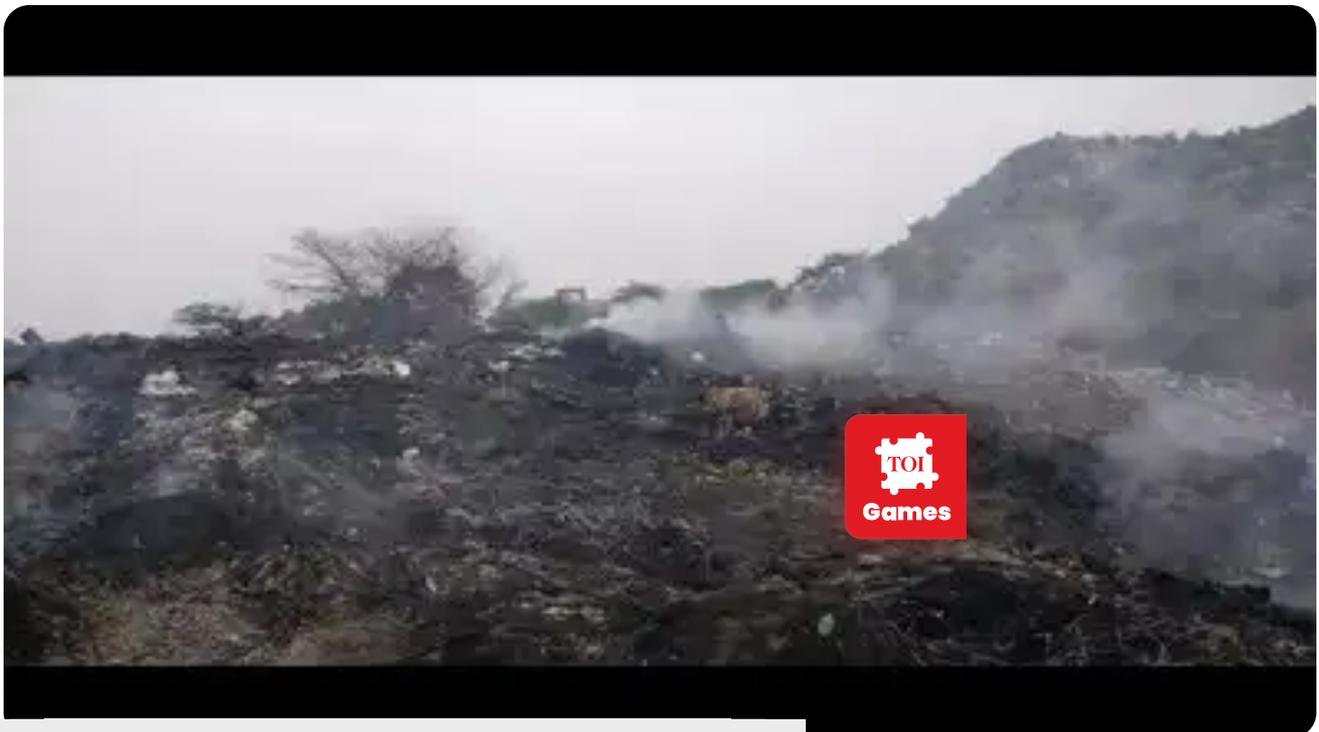
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PLACE: NEW DELHI

DATED: 18.08.2025

Nuh Hazard: Burning Chemical Waste Pumps Toxins Into NCR Airshed

CITY | Ipsita Pati | Aug 17, 2025, 04:27 IST



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Night after night, thousands of tonnes of chemical waste are set afire in kilns fashioned within the folds of Aravali terrain on the Rajasthan-Haryana border in Nuh, sending a stream of toxins into the same Delhi-NCR airshed that four state govts, the Centre, Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal have been trying to clean up through a series of extensive and expensive measures that have yielded limited results. While GRAP (graded response action plan) and the NGT-imposed age cap for diesel and petrol vehicles both

have costs for people, that collective effort is being undermined by large-scale burning of industrial waste. The waste comes in at night primarily from Rajasthan through transporters, a nexus that thrives because factory owners want to avoid the cost of legal disposal (Rs 10–20 per kg) and go to middlemen instead.

Most of the kilns that burn this industrial waste – comprising chemically treated industrial scrap, plastic and rubber – are in the villages of Khori Kalan and Khori Kurd in Nuh. At the kilns, and in open pits, chemical waste is mixed with wood and set alight.

At a spot in Khori Kalan, around 2,000 square metres of Aravali land has been singed by night burning of waste. There's no fire to be seen in the morning, but it registers its invisible presence in the air, through a pungent cocktail that irritates the respiratory tract as one approaches.

"This is an environmental emergency. We have been suffering for the last 15 years. Recently, the burning activity has increased," said Ahmed, a resident of Khori Kalan. In a way, the industrial refuse in these parts is a byproduct of pollution policies adopted over the decades. As 'red' category heavily polluting industries were moved out of NCR cities, they shifted base to places like Bhiwadi, creating a new hotspot of severe industrial pollution.

"There are influential people who are in this business. Every night, small fires across the villages are seen, which is deteriorating living conditions for us," said Ushmeed, another resident.

Transporters and kiln owners, sources said, earn Rs 2–5 per kg for handling hazardous waste, accumulating into a sizable black-market economy.

"Factories need us because what we charge is much cheaper for them. Even if it's Rs 5 per kilo, it adds up by the end of the month. By the end of the night, it adds up. Everyone knows it's illegal, but the money keeps the cycle going," said a local transporter involved in the trade.

"On an average night, there are 10 to 15 trucks or tractor-trolleys coming into these villages. These are small trucks carrying around 10 tonnes each. They bring the waste in drums. We unload fast and dump it in pits. By morning, most of it gets burnt," said another transporter at Khori Kalan. In both villages, evidence of this hazardous burning is plentiful. On the foothills of the Aravali hills, industrial plastic and other waste lies strewn over several spots, waiting to be incinerated. At a place in Khori Kurd, drums are

neatly stacked in rows, ready for disposal.

Akanksha Tanwar, HSPCB's regional officer (Nuh), said all the waste comes from Rajasthan. "Waste is transported from industrial hubs in Rajasthan's Bhiwadi, Khush Khera, and Dharuhera. We have already written to the Rajasthan pollution board to take up the matter," said Tanwar. The forest department, meanwhile, filed three complaints on June 27 with Tauru Sadar police station against Om Cargo Logistics, PG Technoplast Pvt Ltd, and Gracure Pharmaceuticals Ltd for illegal dumping. Sources said there is some industrial waste that also comes in from industries in and around Manesar. "We have also filed two FIRs, issued a damage report and written to the district administration about the issue. The waste needs to be cleaned by the municipal corporation, panchayats, and the district administration. We carried out an evaluation of the damage from waste burning and dumping in Aravalis as well," said a forest official.

Nuh resident Usman Khan filed a public interest litigation (PIL) before the Punjab and Haryana high court last year, alleging local disposal units were receiving plastic and metal drums filled with chemical waste, scrap and rubber, which were then manually segregated and burned, generating a charred residue called 'gulla' that is sold as fuel. The petition is pending. Gulla is used as a low grade substitute for coal by roadside eateries and to operate small furnaces.

Vishram Meena, deputy commissioner of Nuh, said a probe is under way and all relevant departments have been alerted to the issue. "A five-member fact-finding committee was formed, including officials from the SDM's office, forest department, police and pollution control board. Investigations revealed that five companies from Bhiwadi were involved in dumping hazardous waste in Khori Kalan and nearby areas. During the investigation, the trolleys contained evidence, including discarded packaging and chemical drums, that helped trace the waste back to industrial units in Bhiwadi. We have been taking action to restore the area and curb illegal practices."

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