

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 213 OF 2025

SANJEEV KUMAR AND ORS.

...Applicant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ORS.

...Respondent(s)

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Date: 31.07.2025

ANCHIT SINGLA
COUNSEL FOR RESPONDENT
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

B-133, Sector 14, Noida, UP – 201301

Ph.: 9910926800

Email: anchitsingla.law@gmail.com

FACTUAL/ACTION TAKEN REPORT BY JOINT COMMITTEE

(Constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide orders dated 29.05.2025 passed in O.A. no. 213 of 2025 titled as Sanjeev Kumar and Ors. V/s State of Punjab)

Reference: Orders dated 07.08.2024 passed by the Hon'ble NGT in O.A no. 434 of 2023; Orders dated 26.05.2025 passed in M.A no. 66 of 2025 (in OA No. 434 of 2023) and Orders dated 29.05.2025 passed in O.A no. 213 of 2025.

1. Background:

The complainant Sh. Sanjeev Kumar has filed a complaint in the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), the relevant part of the petition letter enumerating grievances of the applicants is reproduced as follows: -

"Urgent Concern Regarding Continuous Burning of Garbage at Dump Ground in Patiala.

I am writing to bring to your urgent attention the grave environmental and public health issue arising due to the continuous burning of garbage at the dump ground in Patiala, Punjab. This dump ground is situated in close proximity to several residential colonies, where hundreds of families reside. The frequent burning of waste, including plastic and other hazardous materials, is generating toxic smoke that has become a serious threat to the health and well-being of the residents living nearby. Several elderly citizens, children, and patients with respiratory conditions are suffering from breathing difficulties, eye irritation, and other health-related problems due to prolonged exposure to the smoke. The situation worsens during the early morning and late evening hours, making it difficult for families to even stay indoors without being affected. Despite repeated complaints and requests to local authorities, no effective action has been taken to stop this hazardous practice. The inaction poses not only an environmental risk but also a clear violation of citizens' right to live in a clean and safe environment. I, therefore, humbly request the Hon'ble Tribunal to take immediate cognizance of this matter and direct the concerned authorities to:

- 1. Immediately stop the burning of garbage at the dump ground.*



2. *Initiate steps to scientifically manage and dispose of waste in compliance with environmental regulations.*
3. *Ensure regular monitoring and strict enforcement to prevent recurrence. I am attaching today's afternoon pictures along with this letter. As a citizen of Patiala, I kindly request you to intervene in this matter, as it will greatly contribute to protecting the health and environment of thousands of residents living in the vicinity.,"*

The Hon'ble Tribunal has taken cognizance of the said complaint and registered it as **O.A. No. 213/2025** in exercise of suo motu jurisdiction. The Hon'ble Tribunal vide its orders dated 29.05.2025 has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of officers duly authorized by Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board and District Magistrate, Patiala and direct the same to meet within two weeks, undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, associate the applicant and representative of the concerned project proponents, verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action. Punjab Pollution Control Board will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

It is also pertinent to mention here that in another similar case regarding burning of solid waste at dump site Patiala, the applicant-Davinder Pal Singh had earlier sent a letter petition to Hon'ble Tribunal, which was registered as **O.A. No. 434/2023**. The applicant raised the grievances that Municipal Corporation, Patiala is violating provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rule, 2016 and orders passed by this Tribunal whereby ban has been imposed on burning of Solid waste in open places and bulk waste burning in landfill sites. Moreover, regular fires at Municipal Corporation garbage dump site near Chotti Nadi have played havoc with lives of inhabitants of adjoining colonies and damaging environment.

The Hon'ble Tribunal had disposed of the application vide order dated 07.08.2024 by directing Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Patiala to take steps as mentioned to complete the entire process by 31.12.2024 and submit a compliance report by 15.01.2025 with the Registrar General of this Tribunal who was given liberty to place the matter before the Bench if any further order was required.



Now, Hon'ble NGT after considering that further orders to be necessary, as ordered that the matter be listed by the Registry before the Bench and has registered the matter as Miscellaneous Application No. **66/2025** in disposed of Case no. **OA no. 434/2023** titled as **Davinder Pal Singh V/s State of Punjab & Ors.** The Registry has issued notices to respondents no. 1 to 3 i.e., District Magistrate, Patiala and; Member Secretary, Punjab State Pollution Control Board and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Patiala to appear their Counsel before the Tribunal on the next date of hearing fixed and filing their compliance reports with respect to compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.

Both the cases are listed on 04.08.2025 for further consideration.

2. Directions issued by Hon'ble NGT for making compliance to Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

- (i) **O.A. No. 606 of 2018 - "Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016"** - The Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 10.01.2020 in O.A No. 606 of 2018 titled as "Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016" issued directions, the relevant part of which is reproduced as under:

"a. In view of the fact that most of the statutory timelines have expired and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and this Tribunal to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 remain unexecuted, compensation scale is hereby laid down for continued failure after 31.03.2020. The compliance of the Rules requires taking of several steps mentioned in Rule 22 from Serial No. 1 to 10 (mentioned in para 12 above). Any such continued failure will result in liability of every Local Body to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per month per Local Body for population of above 10 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakh per month per Local Body for population between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per month per other Local Body from 01.04.2020 till compliance....."

b. Legacy waste remediation was to 'commence' from 01.11.2019 in terms of order of this Tribunal dated 17.07.2019 in O.A. No. 519/2019 para 2853 even though statutory timeline for 'completing' the said step is till 07.04.2021 (as per serial no. 11 in Rule 22), which direction remains unexecuted at most of the places. Continued failure of every Local Body on the subject of commencing the work of legacy waste sites remediation from 01.04.2020 till compliance will result in liability to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per month per Local Body for population of above 10 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakh per month per Local Body for population between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per month per other Local Body."

The said timelines for levy of environmental compensation was extended for a period of three months i.e. from 01.04.2020 to 01.07.2020 in view of COVID-19 pandemic by the Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 17.09.2020.

- (ii) **O.A. No. 286 of 2022 - In O.A. No. 286 of 2022 w.r.t. news item published in "The Indian Express" dated 20th April, 2022 titled "7 charred to death in fire near Ludhiana dump site", the Hon'ble Tribunal directed CPCB to collect information about garbage dump site from all States in respect of atleast Metro Cities and issue necessary directions/guidelines for preventing such fires and handling them effectively, if they take place, specifying serious consequences of delay in dealing with the issues in violation of binding rules.**
- (iii) **O.A. No. 288 of 2022 - In O.A. No. 288 of 2022 regarding news item published in "The Times of India" dated 22th April titled "Delhi, another long-drawn effort to douse fire at Gazipur land fill", dump site has been considered isolated and vulnerable site, which require on-site and off-site fire and other disaster management plans.**

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3. Directions issued by Central Pollution Control Board

CPCB vide letter no. CP-99/143/2021-UPC-11-HO-CPCB-HO/1576 dated 26.05.2022 has issued directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 w.r.t. fire incidents at Municipal Solid Waste dump sites to the State Pollution Control Boards.

4. Action taken by PPCB:

- (i) In view of the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 606 of 2022, environment compensation amounting to Rs. 55 lacs (for a period from 01.07.2020 till 31.12.2024) has been imposed upon Municipal Corporation, Patiala for non-compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and legacy waste remediation, out of which Rs. 39.0 lacs has been deposited by the State Government on behalf Municipal Corporation, Patiala.
- (ii) The directions dated 26.05.2022 issued by CPCB were forwarded to the Department of Local Govt., Government of Punjab by PPCB letter no. 805 dated 19.07.2022 to ensure compliance of said directions. The said directions are reproduced as under: -
 1. The Department of Local Government shall provide updated information w.r.t directions dated 01.03.2021 issued by PPCB regarding bio-mining issued to it.
 2. The Department of Local Government to conduct comprehensive risk assessment studies and accordingly prepare detailed On-site Emergency Plan for each dumpsite located in their jurisdiction addressing the following issues:
 - a) The onsite emergency plan to cover potential risks/emergencies due to fire, obnoxious flammable emissions, odour, vector borne diseases, rodents, bird nuisance, seasonal affects i.e. summer / winter / monsoon (rainy season) and all other potential risks at the dumpsites.



- b) The onsite emergency plans to address the worst possible case scenarios preferably using appropriate risk assessment softwares covering any or all of the potential emergency issues/scenarios cited above.
- c) The on-site emergency management plan to cover likely affected geographical area including population, flora & fauna in and around the dumpsites.
- d) The on-site emergency plan to contain detailed remedial measures both hardware and software based for mitigating various emergency situations, which should finally be available with respective control rooms and on-site emergency notice boards.
- e) The Department of Local Government to prepare the on-site & off-site (or update off- site) emergency management plans preferably through an expert agency on the subject.

The Department of Local Government shall implement the following interim measures on priority till the time On-site/Off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented:

- a) Disposal of Waste: Fresh waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite where bio- remediation is being undertaken. Organic waste from slaughter house, fish market etc., industrial waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite. It is to be further ensured that industrial waste / E-Waste/Lithium battery is not dumped at the site. Waste that is being unloaded at the site should be examined visually for potential fire sources fire sources when located, should be neutralized with cover material immediately. Emergency tipping area to be provided to set aside from the immediate working area where incoming loads of material known to be on fire or suspected of being so can be deposited, inspected and dealt with. Adequate compacting of waste to be done to minimize formation of air or methane pockets which can lead to subsurface fire at site.
- b) Monitoring at dumpsites: Methane Gas Detectors (on downwind side) to be installed at site so that area with high methane concentration can be identified and preventive actions be undertaken. Further, temperature at

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windrows to be monitored with non-contact infrared thermometer (as used for monitoring human body temperature under COVID circumstances) and records be maintained for any major deviations. The temperature is to be in the range of 35°C to 59°C. Treated leachate /water to be sprayed on the waste when rise in temperature is observed at the bioremediation site. Suitable mechanism to be in place. Installation of CCTV cameras at the site and provision of fencing & frequent patrolling to be done for checking unauthorized entry at dumpsite.

- c) Arrangements for fire Extinguishing: Arrangements for adequate storage of sand/ chemical fire extinguishing medias such as foam or powder at site to be made to douse fire in case a fire Incident is reported. Usage of water for dousing fire to be avoided. Isolation and allowing rapid natural burnout or smothering with soil to be done for dousing dumpsite fires. Dedicated fire tenders (preferably chemical extinguishing media) and adequate fire safety measures are to be deputed, specifically during summer season when dumpsites fire is more likely to take place. All mobile equipment or vehicles should be fitted with fire extinguisher and spark arrester.
- d) Health & Safety of Workers: Fire protection measures and safety equipment to be provided to all workers at the site and checked before entry to the dumpsite. Workers to be trained for detection of fire and necessary action to be taken in case of fire. Periodic training of workers be conducted in Safe handling of Waste, PPE's, Health & Safety issues etc.
- e) Mock Drills & safety audits: Periodic mock drills to be conducted to prevent fire accidents at dumpsites. Quarterly, Fire Safety and Hazardous Emissions Audits to be conducted.

A copy of the said directions was forwarded to all the Municipal Corporations/ Municipal Councils/ Nagar Panchayats of the State vide PPCB letter nos. 1340-1507 dated 14.09.2022, including Municipal Corporation, Patiala for compliance.



Copies of the letters of PPCB bearing nos. 805 dated 19.07.2022 and 1340-1507 dated 14.09.2022 are attached as **Annexure-'A'** & **Annexure-'B'** respectively.

5. Directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Area Act, 2021 for prevention and control of fire in Sanitary Landfill Sites. Dumpsites and open Municipal Solid Waste/ Biomass burning in Delhi-NCR-reg.

The Commission for Air Quality Management has issued Direction no. 91 under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for prevention and control of fire in Sanitary Landfill Sites. Dumpsites and open Municipal Solid Waste/ Biomass burning in Delhi-NCR. The direction include management of legacy waste at Sanitary Landfill Site and dump sites for prevention of fire incidents. It also includes direction for management of fresh generation of MSW- prevention of fire incidents through open burning of MSW/Biomass etc. A copy of the said directions was forwarded to all the Municipal Corporations/ Municipal Councils/Nagar Panchayats of the State through PPCB letter/e-mail dated 14.07.2025 including Municipal Corporation, Patiala for compliance and is attached as **Annexure-'C'**.

6. Action taken by PPCB w.r.t. complaint

The complaint regard burning of Solid waste at dump site Patiala was received telephonically in PPCB. On receiving the complaint, the solid waste dump site near Sanouri Adda adjoining to Patiala Nadi was visited by the officers of the Board on 11.04.2025 alongwith Sh. Harwinder Singh, Sanitary Inspector of Municipal Corporation, Patiala. During visit, it was observed as under: -

- a) Solid waste dumped at various pockets was found under fire at the dump site and a lot of emissions were found coming from the same thus creating air pollution.

- b) One number fire brigade at the site was trying to douse of the fire at dump site.
- c) Sanitary inspector, Municipal Corporation, Patiala was contacted on the site and he informed that the fire started due to short circuit from the high-tension electric wires, passing above the dump site. He further informed that they are trying of douse the fire for last two days, using fire brigades. However, due to high wind speed and methane generation, the fire could not be control completely.
- d) The Water hydrants earlier installed at the dump site were not in operation or under use.
- e) Methane Detectors earlier installed at dump site no longer existed.
- f) Municipal Corporation has not provided any fencing at boundaries at dump site, due to the reason mentioned earlier by the MCP that due to uneven land boundaries, it was very difficult to create fencing.
- g) CCTV, Cameras installed at the dump site were found not in operation and are in offline mode with Punjab Pollution Control Board Server.
- h) A lot of legacy waste was found dumped at the site and no Bio-remediation was being done for treatment of legacy solid waste. As per the data submitted by MC, Patiala in the last District Environment Committees meeting, 100% of legacy waste is remediated (1st phase) & in Phase 2 total about 143000 Ton legacy waste remediation is pending. Further, it has been intimated that 95% source segregation is being done but during visit, it was observed that lot of fresh mixed waste was stored at the dump site. The representative of the MC, Patiala informed that waste from outside Patiala city is also coming to the site.
- i) ETP earlier installed at dump site was found in abandoned condition.

Due to the above said violations, Municipal Corporation, Patiala was issued notice to issue directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for violating the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 vide Board's letter no. 504 dated 25/04/2025 alongwith the opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board.

The personal hearing was held before the Chairman of the Board on 07.05.2025, wherein, the representative of the Joint Commissioner

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MC, Patiala informed that MC, Patiala has permanently deployed a fire brigade vehicle to prevent accidental fires at the dump site. The Methane detectors installed earlier had become non-operational because of technical glitch in the wiring system. The same has been rectified and two Methane detectors installed at dump site have been made functional. She further informed that due to the large amount of garbage at the main garbage dump, fencing was difficult but they have made 8 CCTV cameras operational and apart from this 10 more CCTV shall be installed. MC, Patiala has allotted the work of legacy waste remediation to a private firm - Sagar Motors for 143000 ton and the performance of the firm was slow therefore, a termination of work notice was issued to it and now the speed of the remediation at the dump site has been increased. The representative of MC, assured to ensure the compliance of the decisions of the hearing earlier given by the Board, NGT directions as well as no fire incident at dump site in any circumstance.

After hearing the representative of the MC, Patiala, officers of the Board and considering the material aspects of the case, the Chairman of the Board decided as under: -

1. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall deposit the balance amount of Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 46.0 lacs imposed on it upto 31.12.2024 to the Board immediately.
2. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall expedite the process for the bio-remediation of legacy waste and shall ensure that the bio-remediation of the legacy waste lying at the dump site be carried out without any further delay.
3. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall immediately comply with the commitments given by it before the Hon'ble NGT in O.A no. 434 of 2023 titled as Davinder Pal Singh vs State of Punjab and submit compliance report of the same in the O/o Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala.
4. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall immediately submit bank guarantee amounting to Rs. 10 lacs as decided in the last personal hearing held on 14.02.2024 as an assurance to comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

5. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall ensure that no fire incident at the dump site as well as in the city be occurred in any circumstance.
6. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall immediately make its ETP operational for treatment of leachates being generated from the legacy dump site.
7. A team of the Officers of the Board comprising Er. Parveen Saluja, Senior Environmental Engineer (HQ-3), Er. Gurkaran Singh, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala, Er. Dharamvir Singh, AEE, Regional Office, Patiala shall visit the dump site, verify the contentions made by the MC during the hearing, verify the compliance various commitments made by the MC in the Hon'ble NGT and other compliances w.r.t. Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 within 15 days and submit its report with concrete recommendations.
8. Further action shall be taken after the receipt of the report from Regional Office, Patiala within 15 days.
9. The MC shall devise the ways & means to minimize the generation of all kind of wastes through REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE activities. The generated waste, if any, shall be properly handled and managed as per the provisions of the Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2016 in an environmentally sound manner.
10. The MC may also develop the vermin composting/composting, to manage the biodegradable solid waste.
11. MC will take regular inspections and appropriate actions against the violators of ban on single use plastic, plastic carry bags as well as persons/vendors who throw, burn or bury any solid wastes in open, outside premises or in drain / water bodies.

The proceedings of the hearing were conveyed to the Municipal Corporation, Patiala vide Board's letter No. 912-914 dated 12.05.2025, a copy of which is attached as **Annexure-'D'**.

In compliance with the decisions of point no. 11 of the personal hearing, the dumpsite of the MC, Patiala was visited by the team of the officers of the Board on 20.06.2025 and 08.07.2025. The report of the PPCB officers alongwith recommendations has been sent to the higher authorities for taking necessary action in the matter.



7. Visit of the Joint Committee constituted by Hon'ble NGT:

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) in M.A no. 66 of 2025 in disposed of case of Original Application No. 434 of 2023 titled as Davinder Pal Singh Vs State of Punjab, Patiala, the Joint Committee comprising of following officers held a meeting on 25.06.2025 at Patiala to deliberate upon actions to be taken for compliance of orders dated 07.08.2023 of the Hon'ble NGT -

- 1) Ms. Preeti Yadav, Deputy Commissioner, Patiala.
- 2) Er. Harkiran Singh, Senior Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Patiala
- 3) Er. Jatinder Pal Singh, Executive Engineer, Municipal Corporation, Patiala
- 4) Er. Gurkaran Singh, Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Regional Office, Patiala.

It was decided by the Deputy Commissioner, Patiala that MC, Patiala shall submit Action taken report and the Joint Committee shall make field visit at the dump site.

Meanwhile, it came to the knowledge of the District Administration that Hon'ble NGT has taken up a similar matter in O.A. 213 of 2025 titled Sanjeev Kumar and Ors Vs State of Punjab & Ors and vide its orders dated 29.05.2025 has constituted a Joint Committee comprising of officers duly authorized by Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board and District Magistrate, Patiala and direct the same to meet within two weeks, undertake visits to the site, look into the grievances of the applicant, associate the applicant and representative of the concerned project proponents, verify the factual position and suggest appropriate remedial action. Punjab Pollution Control Board will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

Accordingly, the committee comprising of Ms. Preeti Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Patiala, Sh. Rajinder Chopra, Superintending Engineer, Sh. Jatinder Pal Singh, Executive Engineer & Sh. Navinder Singh, Medical Officer from MC Patiala; Sh. Gurkaran Singh, Environmental



Engineer & Sh. Mohit Singla, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, PPCB, Patiala alongwith the complainant, Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, visited the site on 08.07.2025.

During visit, it was observed as under:

1. No burning of solid waste was observed by the Joint Committee.
2. The Bio-remediation work was going on at dumpsite near Sanouri Adda adjoining to Badi Nadi. The machines namely Trommel machine, Pock Lane/ JCBs, Kee strack/warrior machine were in operation for remediation of legacy waste.
3. It was informed by MC officers that the work of remediation of legacy waste is being undertaken by M/s Sagar Motors, Latur, Maharashtra at dumpsite. The company representative and MC officials informed that the total solid waste shall be remediated within three months' time.
4. The Municipal Corporation has developed a green park at Site A (Reclaimed site) in an about 8 Kanal areas and few plantations around dumpsite.
5. MC officials informed approximately 1.43 Lacs MT legacy waste has been dumped at the site as on 08.07.2025. Fresh Municipal Solid Waste @187 TPD is also being dumped at the Dump Site.
6. As per the information provided by the Municipal Corporation, Patiala, about 260 MTD of solid waste is being bio-remediated which is significantly lower than the installed capacity of 1,000 MT/day.
7. 2 No. Methane Detectors installed at dumpsite were found operational and it was informed by the representatives that it gives a large beep sound as and when methane is detected.
8. 18 CCTV Cameras installed at the dumpsite were found installed at the dump site.
9. It was informed that permanent water hydrants system installed at the dumpsite to extinguish any fire on the dumpsite had been stolen. However, fire brigade was found stationed at the dumpsite.
10. ETP installed for treatment of leachate at dumpsite were found non-functional.



11. Proposed CBG plant has yet to be installed at Village Dudhar, Teh & Distt. Patiala.

12. It was informed by MC, Patiala that the following steps are being taken:

- Floating of new tenders or engaging alternate qualified agencies for collection, segregation and processing of waste
- Performance review and potential termination of the contract with M/s Sagar Motors, Latur, Maharashtra.
- Setting up of New Waste Processing Plant with atleast 200 TPD capacity for which land has been identified. About 2 acres land is being leased adjacent to dump site, to speed up the process of treatment of legacy waste.
- 5 New MRFs with 40-50 TPD capacity are being set up to reduce the fresh waste consumption from the dump site.
- Preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for setting up a Waste-to Energy Plant.
- Identification of new technology partners and agencies for handling dry and wet waste streams effectively.

13. As informed by the Municipal Corporation, Patiala, 02 fire drills were conducted during the month of July, 2025.

8. Written Statement of the Complainant Sh. Sanjeev Kumar in the matter of original application no. 213/2025 titled as Sanjeev Kumar Vs State of Punjab.

During visit, the complainant Sh. Sanjeev Kumar was also requested to visit the site alongwith the Joint Committee. The complainant informed that no burning of legacy waste/ any waste was observed from past 2-3 months. He also informed the team that no issue of smell/odour is

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being faced by them at present. The written statement of the complainant Sh. Sanjeev Kumar is enclosed herewith as **Annexure-'E'**.

9. Recommendations:

Following measures shall be taken by Municipal Corporation, Patiala in a time bound manner for prevention of fires at its dump site and management of solid waste:

- a) Municipal Corporation, Patiala should utilize the full capacity of the available machinery to expedite the completion of the bio-remediation work at the earliest.
- b) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall implement On-site Emergency Plan for its dump site addressing the following issues:
 - ✓ To cover potential risks / emergencies due to fire, obnoxious / flammable emissions, odour, vector borne diseases rodents, bird nuisance, seasonal affects i.e. summer / winter / monsoon (rainy season) and all other potential risks at the dumpsites.
 - ✓ To address the worst possible case scenarios preferably using appropriate risk assessment software's covering any or all of the potential emergency issues / scenarios cited above.
 - ✓ To cover likely affected geographical area including population, flora & fauna in an around the dumpsites.
 - ✓ To contain detailed remedial measures both hardware and software based for mitigating various emergency situations, which should finally be available with respective control rooms and on-site emergency notice boards.
- c) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall provide a permanent water hydrant (Pipe line) system, which can be used to douse of the fire at any time in the year.
- d) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall ensure that fresh waste is not disposed at the dump site where bio remediation is being undertaken
- e) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall increase the plantation area / green belt especially towards Patiala Nadi.

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- f) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall deposit the pending environment compensation in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal orders in O.A. No. 606 of 2022.
- g) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall comply with directions issued by CPCB u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Area Act, 2021 for prevention and control of fire in Sanitary Landfill Sites, Dumpsites and open Municipal Solid Waste/ Biomass burning in true letter and spirit.



**Ms. Preeti Yadav,
Deputy Commissioner,
Patiala**



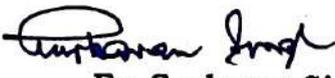
**Er. Rajinder Chopra,
Superintending
Engineer, Municipal
Corporation, Patiala**



**Er. Jatinder Pal Singh,
Executive Engineer,
Municipal Corporation,
Patiala**



**Dr. Navinder Singh,
Medical Officer,
Municipal Corporation,
Patiala**



**Er. Gurkaran Singh,
Environmental
Engineer, PPCB,
Regional Office,
Patiala**



**Er. Mohit Singh,
Environmental
Engineer, PPCB,
Regional Office, Patiala**



Annexure - A

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ

41 PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

ANNEXURE A

No. 805

Dated. 19/7/22

17

To

The Principal Secretary to Govt. of Punjab,
Department of Local Government,
Chandigarh.

Subject: Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 regarding Fire Incidents at MSW Dumpsites.

Ref: CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO/1576 dated 26.05.2022.

Whereas, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has notified Solid Waste Management Rules on April 08, 2016 which inter-alia state procedures for Solid Waste Management;

And whereas, in accordance with Rule 11(d) of the Rules, it is the duty of the State Urban Development Department to ensure implementation of provisions of these Rules by all local authorities;

And whereas, in accordance with Rule 15(a) of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, the local authorities and Panchayats should prepare a solid waste management plan as per state policy and strategy on solid waste management within six months from the date of notification;

And whereas, in accordance with provision of Rule 15(zd) of the SWM Rules, 2016, the local authorities and Panchayats shall ensure that the operator of a facility provides personal protection equipment including uniform, fluorescent jacket, hand gloves, raincoats, appropriate foot wear and masks to all workers handling solid waste and the same are used by the workforce;

And whereas, MSW is being disposed of unscientifically in most cases which is one of the major causes for public nuisance due to frequent fire incidents, foul odour, generation of leachate and other adverse environmental impacts;

And whereas, several fire incidents have been reported recently at Ghazipur & Bhisawa dumpsites in Delhi, Manesar in Haryana and Ludhiana in Punjab.

And whereas, fire incidents at dumpsites may lead to severe adverse impact on environment and related health hazards. People living in and around the dumpsites are likely to be affected due to the frequent outbreaks of fire.

And whereas, Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 286 of 2022, in reference to News item published in The Indian Express dated 20th April, 2022, titled "7 Charred to death in fire near Ludhiana dumpsite" has directed CPCB to collect information about garbage dumpsites from all States in respect of atleast Metro cities and issue statutory directions / guidelines for preventing such fires and handling them effectively if they take place, specifying serious consequences of delay in dealing with the issue, in violation of binding rules.

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ - 147001
Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001

Contd....

Phone : Chairman. : 0175-2215793, Member Secretary : 0175-2215802 (O), 2215636 (FAX)
Website : www.ppcb.gov.in | E-Mail : chairmanppcb@yahoo.in | msppcb@gmail.com |



And whereas, as per the information available in the Board, there are total 143 dumpsites in the state of Punjab.

And whereas, as per Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste (Old Municipal Solid Waste) issued by CPCB, it is important to carry out comprehensive risk assessment and develop onsite emergency plan which should be kept handy prior to commencement of dumpsite bio-remediation & bio-mining;

And whereas, the Board had issued following directions vide letter No. EPA/21/543 date 01.03.2021 to the Department of Local Government, Punjab regarding bio-mining of Legacy Waste to submit action taken report within 15 days:

1. The Department of Local Government shall provide complete list of legacy waste dumpsites in the State as per format enclosed to the Board.
2. The Department of Local Government shall ensure that necessary action for bio-mining and bio-remediation of these dumpsites is done by the concerned local authorities in compliance with provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
3. The Department of Local Government shall ensure that concerned local authorities engaged in the bio-mining process of legacy waste shall follow procedures as per CPCB Guidelines for disposal of legacy waste with specific compliance to the following points:
 - i. Analysis of various screened fraction materials i.e. RDF, fine earth/bio earth etc., prior to its disposal/utilization.
 - ii. Preparation of plan for utilization/disposal of screened fractions.
 - iii. Adequate provisions for leachate treatment.
 - iv. Maintenance of records/documents for disposal/utilization of the RDFs or fine earth and other materials.
4. The Department of Local Government shall ensure that the local bodies prepare time targeted action plan for bio-mining/bio-remediation of these dumpsites in compliance with points listed above. The timelines as specified in Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Hon'ble NGT Directions on the matter are to be adhered to for remediation of these sites.
5. The Department of Local Government shall ensure that no fresh waste is disposed at these dumpsites and local authorities make proper arrangement for management of fresh solid waste.
6. The Department of Local Government shall ensure that atleast one legacy waste dumpsite is remediated in the State, which can be considered as model for compliance for other legacy waste dumpsites in non-attainment cities (NAC).

And whereas, the action taken report with respect to above mentioned directions has not been received from the Department of Local Government, till now.

And whereas, Hon'ble NGT in its Order dated April 22, 2022 in O.A No. 288/2022 regarding News item published in the Time of India dated April 22, titled "Delhi; Another long-drawn effort to douse fire at Ghazipur landfill" has stated that dumpsite may be considered as isolated and vulnerable site which require On-site and Off-site Fire and other disaster management plans;

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And whereas, CPCB made the following observations based on inspected various dumpsites, where bioremediation of legacy waste is being carried out;

- i. solid waste continued to be dumped at these dumpsites.
- ii. Fire incidents have been reported at locations where fresh waste is being dumped.
- iii. Inaccessible slopes of garbage were observed
- iv. No standard operating plan in place for prevention and management of Fresh dumpsite fires.
- v. Cause of fire incident reported is excess release of Methane (CH₄) gas due to anaerobic decomposition of the bio-degradable organic waste, high temperature and dry atmospheric conditions.
- vi. Partial fencing with barbed wire provided at the boundary observed.
- vii. Police patrolling the site not observed.
- viii. No fire tender observed at site.
- ix. Anti-Smog Gun have been installed which were not found in use;

And whereas, CPCB vide letter No. CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO/1576 dated 26.05.2022 has issued Directions to the Punjab Pollution Control Board under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 w.r.t. fire incidents at solid waste dumpsites.

And whereas, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India vide notification S.O. 327(E) of 10.04.2001 has delegated powers vested under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) to the Chairman, State Pollution Control Boards/ Committee to issue directions to any industry or any local or other authority for the violation of the standards and rules relating to Municipal Solid Waste notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Now, the Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board in exercise of the powers delegated upon him by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India, New Delhi, issues the following directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

- 1) The Department of Local Government shall provide updated information w.r.t Directions dated 01.03.2021 issued by the Board regarding biomining issued to Department of Local Government. It is to be ensured that updated information w.r.t at least all Metro cities is provided in accordance with Hon'ble NGT Directions.
- 2) The Department of Local Government to conduct comprehensive risk assessment studies and accordingly prepare detailed On-site Emergency Plan for each dumpsite located in their jurisdiction addressing the following issues:
 - a. The onsite emergency plan to cover potential risks/ emergencies due to fire, obnoxious / flammable emissions, odour, vector borne diseases, rodents, bird nuisance, seasonal affects i.e. summer / winter / monsoon (rainy season) and all other potential risks at the dumpsites.
 - b. The onsite emergency plans to address the worst possible case scenarios preferably using appropriate risk assessment softwares covering any or all of the potential emergency issues/ scenarios cited above.

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- c. The on-site emergency management plan to cover likely affected geographical area including population, flora & fauna in and around the dumpsites.
 - d. The on-site emergency plan to contain detailed remedial measures both hardware and software based for mitigating various emergency situations, which should finally be available with respective control rooms and on-site emergency notice boards.
- 3) The Department of Local Government to prepare the on-site & off-site (or update off-site) emergency management plans preferably through an expert agency on the subject.
 - 4) The Department of Local Government shall implement the following interim measures on priority till the time On-site/Off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented:
 - a. **Disposal of Waste:** Fresh waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite where bio-remediation is being undertaken. Organic waste from slaughter house, fish market etc., industrial waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite. It is to be further ensured that industrial waste / E-Waste / Lithium battery is not dumped at the site. Waste that is being unloaded at the site should be examined visually for potential fire sources fire sources when located, should be neutralized with cover material immediately. Emergency tipping area to be provided to set aside from the immediate working area where incoming loads of material known to be on fire or suspected of being so can be deposited, inspected and dealt with. Adequate compacting of waste to be done to minimize formation of air or methane pockets which can lead to subsurface fire at site.
 - b. **Monitoring at dumpsites:** Methane Gas Detectors (on downwind side) to be installed at site so that area with high methane concentration can be identified and preventive actions be undertaken. Further, temperature at windrows to be monitored with non-contact infrared thermometer (as used for monitoring human body temperature under COVID circumstances) and records be maintained for any major deviations. The temperature is to be in the range of 35oC to 59oC. Treated leachate /water to be sprayed on the waste when rise in temperature is observed at the bioremediation site. Suitable mechanism to be in place. Installation of CCTV cameras at the site and provision of fencing & frequent patrolling to be done for checking unauthorized entry at dumpsite.
 - c. **Arrangements for fire Extinguishing:** Arrangements for adequate storage of sand / chemical fire extinguishing medias such as foam or powder at site to be made to douse fire in case a fire incident is reported. Usage of water for dousing fire to be avoided. Isolation and allowing rapid natural burnout or smothering with soil to be done for dousing dumpsite fires. Dedicated fire tenders (preferably chemical extinguishing media) and adequate fire safety measures are to be deputed, specifically during summer season when dumpsites fire is more likely to take place. All mobile equipment or vehicles should be fitted with fire extinguisher and spark arrester.

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- d. **Health & Safety of Workers:** Fire protection measures and safety equipment to be provided to all workers at the site and checked before entry to the dumpsite. Workers to be trained for detection of fire and necessary action to be taken in case of fire. Periodic training of workers be conducted in Safe handling of Waste, PPE's, Health & Safety issues etc.
- e. **Mock Drills & safety audits:** Periodic mock drills to be conducted to prevent fire accidents at dumpsites. Quarterly, Fire Safety and Hazardous Emissions Audits to be conducted.

The Department of Local Government is hereby directed to submit action taken report within 10 days for Action Point listed at No. 5 above. Action taken report for Point No. 1 to 4 to be provided within 20 days of receipt of these Directions.

Endst.No. 806

ਮਹਿਤਾਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੰਡਾ
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)
 Chairman
 Dated 19/7/22

A copy of above is forwarded to the Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032 w.r.t. to letter no. CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO/1576 dated 26.05.2022, for information please.

Endst.No. 807

ਮਹਿਤਾਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੰਡਾ
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)
 Chairman
 Dated 19/7/22

A copy of above is forwarded to the Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Chandigarh, for information please.

Endst.No. 808-34

ਮਹਿਤਾਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੰਡਾ
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)
 Chairman
 Dated 19/7/22

A copy of above is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

- 1) The Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala/Ludhiana/Jalandhar & Bathinda.
- 2) The Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, Jalandhar, Bathinda, Amritsar, Patiala-1/2, & Ludhiana-1/2.
- 3) The Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Patiala, Sangrur, Batala, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Bathinda, Faridkot, Mohali, Roper, Fatehgarh Sahib, Jalandhar-I/II and Ludhiana-I/II/III/IV, with a request to coordinate with the concerned authority for ensuring compliance of the directions.

ਮਹਿਤਾਬ ਸਿੰਘ ਪੰਡਾ
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)
 Chairman

	PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147 001
	Phone No. 0175-2215802, 2215793 Fax : 0175 - 2202672, PBX: 0175- 2227925,

No. SEE (HQ-3)/2022/...13510-52
 1353-1507
 Regd

Dated.....14/9/22

To

1. The Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation (as per list)
2. The Executive Officer,
Municipal Council / Nagar Panchayat (as per list)

Subject: Directions u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 regarding fire incidents at MSW dumpsites.

Ref: CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO/1576 dated 26/5/2022 and PPCB letter no. 805 dated 19/7/2022.

It is intimated that Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) vide its letter dated 26/5/2022 has issued directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 regarding fire incidents at MSW dump sites (copy enclosed). Accordingly, the Deptt. of Local Government was directed vide Board's letter dated 19/7/2022 (copy enclosed) to ensure the compliance of the said directions and submit the Action taken report.

It is further intimated that the matter is being reviewed by Hon'ble NGT in O.A. no. 286 of 2022 titled as "News item published in the Indian Express dated 20th April, 2022 titled "7 Charred to death in fire near Ludhiana dumpsite" and Action taken report in the subject matter has been sought vide order dated 25/7/2022 (copy enclosed).

You are, therefore, requested to take necessary action and ensure the meticulous compliance of the said directions.

DA/- As above (Through e-mail).


 12/9/22
 Environmental Engineer (HQ-3/3)
 for Chairman

Endst no...1508-34

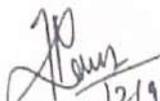
Through e-mail

Dated.....14/9/22

A copy of the above is forwarded to the followings for information and necessary action please:

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar / Ludhiana / Amritsar & Patiala.
2. The Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, Patiala-I / II / Jalandhar / Ludhiana-I / II / Amritsar & Patiala.
3. The Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Patiala / Sangrur / Hoshiarpur / Bathinda / Faridkot / Jalandhar-I / II / Ludhiana-I / II / III / IV / Fatehgarh Sahib / Batala / Mohali / Amritsar & Ropar.

DA/- As above


 12/9/22
 Environmental Engineer (HQ-3/3)
 for Chairman

PPCB/HO/No.

Registered/ Email

Date:

To

ANNEXURE C

The Commissioner/ Executive Officer,
Municipal Corporation/ Municipal Council/ Nagar Panchayat
(List attached as Annexure)

Subject: Directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for prevention and control of fire in Sanitary Landfill Sites, Dumpsites and open Municipal Solid Waste/ Bio-mass burning in Delhi-NCR-reg.

Reference: CAQM letter no. A-110018/01/2021/CAQM/Vol-VII/104 dated 03.06.2025.

In this regard, it is intimated that the Commission for Air Quality Management vide letter under reference has issued certain directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 (copy enclosed). The important/ relevant directions issued to the various authorities to control air pollution from the open municipal waste burning/ biomass incidents of fire at SLFs and dumpsite are reproduced as under:

1. Management of legacy waste at Sanitary Landfill Sites and Dumpsites- prevention of fire incidents:

- a) Proper identification, categorization, demarcation and fire risk assessment of all SLFs and dumpsites.
- b) Extensive bio-mining/bio-remediation to be carried out in the landfills/dumpsites to liquidate the legacy waste as per the targeted timelines.
- c) Mandatory installation of CCTV cameras at the S's and dumpsites, including appropriate fencing arrangement all along the boundary of the SLFs and dumpsites.
- d) Installation of Methane Gas Detectors at the SLF's and dumpsites so that the areas with high methane concentration are identified and preventive/corrective measures taken accordingly.
- e) Temperature at windrows to be monitored with a non-contact infrared thermometer and records to be maintained for noting major deviations from the temperature range of 35°C - 59°C.
- f) Frequent patrolling to guard against entry of unauthorised persons at the SLI's and dumpsites, particularly during the night hours.
- g) Periodic mock drills to be conducted to prevent fire accidents at SLFs and dumpsites, including quarterly audits for Fire Safety and hazardous emissions.
- h) Adequate fire-fighting arrangements to be made at all SLFs and dumpsites, including hydrants, water tankers and earthmovers for soil spreading etc.
- i) Adequate storage of sand/chemical fire extinguishing means for immediate action, whenever initiation of fire is sensed, besides dedicated fire tenders (preferably with chemical extinguishing media) and other fire safety measures, specifically during the summer season, which is more prone to SLF and dumpsite fires.
- j) Safety gear / Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to be provided to all workers at the site and training imparted periodically to the workers towards detection and control of fire including training on safe handling of the legacy waste etc.

2. Management of fresh generation of MSW- prevention of fire incidents through open burning of MSW/ Biomass etc:

- a) Ensure collection, segregation, transportation and processing of MSW in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, notified by the MOEFCC.

- b) Improved and effective surveillance mechanism at locations vulnerable to garbage burning, particularly during the night hours and in the winter season.
- c) Zero tolerance towards open burning of MSW at vulnerable points, intermediate dumps, collection centres or during transit.
- d) Regular deployment/patrolling by enforcement teams towards prevention and control of open burning of MSW.
- e) Augmenting the capacities of Urban Local Bodies to process the horticulture waste in parks, gardens, green belts, institutions, roadside etc. throughout the year and intensify collection efforts during autumn season.
- f) Public awareness campaigns and public participation should be ensured through RWAs, Industry Associations, Shopkeepers' Associations, etc. to prevent open waste burning in municipal areas.
- g) Regular capacity-building programs should be incorporated for sanitation staff to enhance their skills and knowledge in the processing and handling of municipal solid waste.

In view of above, it is requested to ensure compliance of the abovesaid directions issued by CAQM in the interest of Environment and Public Health.

DA/As above

ed-
Member Secretary

Endst _____

Dated _____

A copy of the above is forwarded the Secretary to Govt. of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology & Environment for kind information in reference to Govt. memo no. 5/12/2025-STE2/1113629 dated 29.05.2025, please.

DA/As above

ed-
Member Secretary

Endst _____

Dated _____

A copy of the abovesaid directions is forwarded to Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Municipal Infrastructure Development Company, Chandigarh for information and necessary action, please.

DA/As above

ed-
Member Secretary

Endst 24763-65

Dated 14/7/25

A copy of the above is forwarded to following for information and necessary action.

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar, Patiala, Bathinda and Ludhiana.
2. The Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office, Amritsar, Ludhiana-1/2, Bathinda, Patiala-1/2 and Jalandhar.
3. The Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office- Amritsar, Batala, Bathinda, Fatehgarh Sahib, Hoshiarpur, Ludhiana-1/2/3/4, Barnala, Sri Mukatsar Sahib, Tarntaran, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, SAS Nagar, Faridkot, Patiala, Roopnagar, Sangrur.

DA/As above

ed-
Member Secretary

Direction No. 91

**COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND ADJOINING AREAS**17th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building)
Tolstoy Marg, New Delhi- 110001

F. No. A-110018/01/2021/CAQM/Vol-VII/104

Dated: 03.06.2025

Subject: Directions under Section 12 of Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for prevention and control of fire in Sanitary Landfill Sites, Dumpsites and open Municipal Solid Waste/Bio-mass burning in Delhi-NCR- reg.

1. WHEREAS, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act 2021 (hereinafter referred to as the Act), has constituted the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (hereinafter referred to as the Commission);
2. WHEREAS, under section 12(1) of the Act, the Commission has powers to take all such measures, issue directions, etc., as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the air in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas;
3. WHEREAS, Section 12 (1) of the Act, empowers the Commission to issue directions in writing to any person, officer, or authority, and such person, officer, or authority shall be bound to comply with such directions;
4. WHEREAS, a large number of cases of uncontrolled open burning of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) /Open biomass in NCR are a matter of serious concern and one of the major contributors to air pollution owing to the generation of Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5}) and gaseous pollutants (NO₂, SO₂, and CO). Open burning of MSW, which also consists of plastics and other such materials, leads to the production of Dioxins and Furans,

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- which are extremely toxic and a serious health concern for both humans and animals;
5. WHEREAS, Hon'ble NGT's Order (OA No. 21 of 2014) dated 28.04.2015 prohibits the burning of assorted garbage, leaves, waste plastic, and similar materials in open spaces across Delhi-NCR and also mandates strict enforcement by local authorities, duly imposing penalties for violations;
 6. WHEREAS, Rule 15(g) of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, prohibits open waste burning and mandates the local authorities to ensure compliance;
 7. WHEREAS, Rule 15(zi) of the SWM Rules, 2016, mandates the local authorities to establish and maintain Sanitary Landfill (SLF) sites and ensure proper and adequate solid waste processing facilities, in line with Schedule I of the said Rules;
 8. WHEREAS, CPCB direction dated January 27, 2021, issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, mandates all SPCBs/PCCs to direct the authorities concerned in the States/UTs to take necessary action for biomining and bio remediation of legacy waste dumpsites by following the due procedures. Further, the authorities engaged in the biomining process were required to prepare a time-targeted action plan for biomining and bioremediation of dumpsites, adhering to the timelines as per Hon'ble NGT directions given on the matter. The concerned authorities were further required to ensure that no fresh waste was disposed at these dumpsites and proper arrangements for management of fresh solid waste were made.
 9. WHEREAS, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)'s Direction No. CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO dated May 26, 2022 issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, inter-alia, directed the authorities concerned in the States / UTs to conduct comprehensive risk assessment study for each of the MSW dumpsite in their jurisdiction and prepare on-site & off-site emergency management plans, preferably

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and

through an expert agency on the subject for each MSW dumpsite located in their jurisdiction and also suggested certain interim measures to be implemented on priority till the time on-site/off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented;

10. WHEREAS, air pollution arising out of inefficient Municipal Solid Waste Management and instances of open burning of such waste, including the incidences of fires in the identified sanitary landfill sites and dumpsites has been identified as one of the sectors of concern and the Commission, accordingly, through DO letters to all NCR States/ agencies dated 17th and 21st June 2021 called for strict vigil and appropriate safeguarding measures for prevention of fires at the dumpsites. The Commission also has been regularly reviewing the systems/status of the MSW Management and control of its open burning periodically through the meetings of the Sub-Committees of the Commission with major stakeholders viz. the State Governments of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and GNCTD and various Urban Local Bodies in the NCR, and also in the meetings of the Commission;
11. WHEREAS, the Commission, based on wide stakeholder consultations, formulated a policy document in July 2022 to curb Air Pollution in the NCR, which, inter-alia, provides strategies and a targeted action plan to prevent/eliminate open burning of miscellaneous solid waste and to control the incidences of fires in the sanitary landfill sites and MSW dumpsites;
12. WHEREAS, the Commission has been periodically reviewing the progress made by the various agencies concerned in the entire NCR on remediation/management of legacy waste in the SLFs / dumpsites, means and mechanism to manage the entire fresh waste generation including the status of the MSW processing capacities and planned augmentation of such facilities to take care of the future needs, including the measures to control fire incidences at SLFs, dumpsites and open areas;
13. WHEREAS, towards control of open Municipal Solid Waste burning / Bio-mass burning (leaves, twigs etc.) particularly during the winters, the

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Commission also issued an Advisory dated 07.08.2024 to Residents' Welfare Associations (RWA) for providing electric heaters to security staff;

14. WHEREAS, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), as last updated by the Commission in December, 2024, mandates the RWAs under Clause 11 of Stage-II of the Schedule to provide electric heaters to staff engaged in security, sanitation, horticulture and other miscellaneous services to avoid open Bio-Mass/ MSW burning during winters;
15. WHEREAS, the Commission has repeatedly flagged its concern on the issue of open burning of Municipal Solid Waste in open areas during various meetings of the Sub-Committee on Safeguarding and Enforcement including the periodic reviews held from time to time on effectiveness of the measures prescribed under the GRAP;
16. WHEREAS, in view of the concerted efforts and interventions made by all stakeholders to guard against incidences of fire in the SLF sites and dumpsites there has been a marked reduction in the number of reported fire incidents at SLFs and dumpsite sites in Delhi on a year-to-year basis. Such incidences are, however, still reported from other areas in NCR, particularly in the areas in the immediate vicinity of Delhi;
17. WHEREAS, towards wider public participation, the Commission also issued a Standard Operating Procedure for reporting incidents/grievances related to air quality and for redressal of such complaints / public grievances by the concerned agencies;
18. WHEREAS, periodic reviews of public complaints, newspaper reports, including social media complaints etc. generally indicate ineffective implementation of various statutory provisions/ rules/ orders/ guidelines in this regard by the Urban Local Bodies towards prevention of fire incidents at landfill sites and open burning of biomass;
19. WHEREAS, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, while hearing the matter in WP (C) No. 13029 of 1985 relating to recent fire incidents in Bandhwari Landfill

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Site within the limits of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram, vide its order dated 02.05.2025, inter-alia, directed that " *Therefore, it will be appropriate if the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issues directions under Section 12 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 dealing with this issue including the preventive measures* ";

20. NOW, THEREFORE, towards ensuring strict compliance of various directions/ orders issued by the Hon'ble Courts, MoEFCC, CPCB or any other authority, and in view of the compelling need to control air pollution from open municipal waste burning/biomass burning and incidences of fire at SLFs and dumpsites, the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Section 12 of the CAQM Act directs the concerned agencies in the NCR for taking appropriate actions as under:

I. Management of legacy waste at Sanitary Landfill Sites and Dumpsites – prevention of fire incidents.

- (a) Proper identification, categorization, demarcation and fire risk assessment of all SLFs and dumpsites located in Delhi-NCR.
- (b) Extensive bio-mining / bio-remediation to be carried out in the landfills/dumpsites to liquidate the legacy waste as per the targeted timelines already submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. GNCTD and NCR State Governments to review the respective time-bound action plans for liquidating such legacy solid waste.
- (c) Mandatory installation of CCTV cameras at the SLFs and dumpsites, including appropriate fencing arrangement all along the boundary of the SLFs and dumpsites.
- (d) Installation of Methane Gas Detectors at the SLFs and dumpsites so that the areas with high methane concentration are identified and preventive/corrective measures taken accordingly.

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- (e) Temperature at windrows to be monitored with a non-contact infrared thermometer and records to be maintained for noting major deviations from the temperature range of 35°C - 59°C.
- (f) Frequent patrolling to guard against entry of unauthorised persons at the SLFs and dumpsites, particularly during the night hours.
- (g) Periodic mock drills to be conducted to prevent fire accidents at SLFs and dumpsites, including quarterly audits for Fire Safety and hazardous emissions.
- (h) Adequate fire-fighting arrangements to be made at all SLFs and dumpsites, including hydrants, water tankers and earthmovers for soil spreading etc.
- (i) Adequate storage of sand/chemical fire extinguishing means for immediate action, whenever initiation of fire is sensed, besides dedicated fire tenders (preferably with chemical extinguishing media) and other fire safety measures, specifically during the summer season, which is more prone to SLF and dumpsite fires.
- (j) Safety gear / Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to be provided to all workers at the site and training imparted periodically to the workers towards detection and control of fire including training on safe handling of the legacy waste etc.

II. Management of fresh generation of MSW - prevention of fire incidents through open burning of MSW/Biomass etc:

- a) Ensure collection, segregation, transportation and processing of MSW in accordance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, notified by the MoEFCC.
- b) Improved and effective surveillance mechanism at locations vulnerable to garbage burning, particularly during the night hours and in the winter season.
- c) Zero tolerance towards open burning of MSW at vulnerable points, intermediate dumps, collection centres or during transit.
- d) Regular deployment/patrolling by enforcement teams towards prevention and control of open burning of MSW.

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- e) Augmenting the capacities of Urban Local Bodies to process the horticulture waste in parks, gardens, green belts, institutions, roadside etc. throughout the year and intensify collection efforts during autumn season.
- f) Public awareness campaigns and public participation should be ensured through RWAs, Industry Associations, Shopkeepers' Associations, etc. to prevent open waste burning in municipal areas.
- g) Regular capacity-building programs should be incorporated for sanitation staff to enhance their skills and knowledge in the processing and handling of municipal solid waste

All concerned agencies as mentioned under various statutes relating to solid waste management are directed to ensure compliance with the above directions of the Commission. These directions are in addition to the existing directions issued by the Hon'ble Courts, MoEFCC, CPCB or any other authority. A consolidated State wide report on prevention and control of sanitary landfill site and dumpsite fires and open Municipal Solid Waste / Bio-mass burning in Delhi-NCR shall be submitted by the SPCBs/ DPCC to the Commission for the respective NCR areas in the format prescribed for the Quarterly Report.

It may be noted that non-compliance of the Directions of the Commission shall attract penal action in terms of Clause 14 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021.


(Arvind Nautiyal)
Member- Secretary
Email: arvind.nautiyal@gov.in

To

1. The Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi, 3'd Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi — 110002. (csdelhi@nic.in)

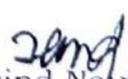
2. The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, 101, Lok Bhawan, U.P. Civil Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha Marg, Lucknow — 226001. (csup@nic.in)
3. The Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, 4th Floor, Civil Secretariat, Sector — 1, Chandigarh. (cs@hry.nic.in)
4. The Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan, Government Secretariat, Jaipur, Rajasthan — 302005. (cs-rajasthan@nic.in)

Copy to:

1. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of NCT of Delhi.
2. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.
3. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Haryana.
4. Additional Chief Secretary/ Pr. Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Rajasthan.
5. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, 6th floor, C Wing, Delhi Secretariat, IP Estate, Delhi – 110002. (msdpcc@nic.in)
6. Member Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, TC 12V, VibhutiKhand, Gomati Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh — 226010. (ms@uppcb.in)
7. Member Secretary, Haryana Pollution Control Board, C-11, Sector 6, Panchkula, Haryana – 134109. (hspcbms@gmail.com)
8. Member Secretary, Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, 4, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongari, Jaipur, Rajasthan- 302004. (member-secretary@rpcb.nic.in)

Copy also to:

The Chairperson and all Members, CAQM


(Arvind Nautiyal)
Member Secretary



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ

ਜ਼ੋਨਲ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ-1, ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਡਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ-147001

Phone no. 0175-2301182

ਨੰਬਰ _____



e-mail : ppcbsee_zp1@yahoo.com

ਮਿਤੀ _____

REGISTERED

To

The Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation,
Patiala.

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing given before the Chairman of the Board on 07.05.2025 w.r.t notice to issue directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for violating the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 - The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Patiala.

The Following were present: -

On behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board

1. Er. G.S Majithia, Member Secretary
2. Er. Lavneet Kumar, Chief Environmental Engineer (P)
3. Er. Gursharan Dass Garg, Senior Environmental Engineer (ZP-I)
4. Er. Parveen Saluja, Senior Environmental Engineer (EPA)
5. Er. Navtesh Singla, Environmental Engineer (ZP-1)

On behalf of MC, Patiala.

Ms. Deep Kaur Jot, PCS (Joint Commissioner)

At the outset, Environmental Engineer, (ZP-1) brought out that: -

Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, wherein the Municipal Authority is responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Solid waste Management Rules, 2016, including infrastructure development for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid waste, and the preparation of action plan for management of solid waste.

And whereas, timelines for compliance of various activities laid down in Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, as well as extended time lines fixed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal have already been lapsed.

And whereas, in OA No. 606 of 2018 titled as "Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016" heard before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 10.01.2020, wherein the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal issued certain directions, the relevant part of which are reproduced as under: -

" a. In view of the fact that most of the statutory timelines have expired and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and this Tribunal to comply with Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 remain unexecuted, compensation scale is hereby laid down for continued failure after 31.03.2020. The compliance of the Rules requires taking of several steps mentioned in Rule 22 from Serial No. 1 to 10 (mentioned in para 12 above). Any such continued failure will result in liability of every Local Body to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per month per Local Body for population of above 10 lakhs, Rs. 5 lakh per month per Local Body for population between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per month per other Local Body from 01.04.2020 till compliance. If the Local Bodies are unable to bear financial burden, the liability will be of the State Governments with liberty to take remedial action against the erring Local Bodies. Apart from compensation, adverse entries must be made in the ACRs of the CEO of the said Local Bodies and other senior functionaries in Department of Urban Development etc. who are responsible for compliance of order of this Tribunal.

b. Legacy waste remediation was to 'commence' from 01.11.2019 in terms of order of this Tribunal dated 17.07.2019 in O.A. No. 519/2019 para 2853 even though statutory timeline for 'completing' the said step is till 07.04.2021 (as per serial no. 11 in Rule 22), which direction remains unexecuted at most of the places. Continued failure of every Local Body on the subject of commencing the work of legacy waste sites remediation from 01.04.2020 till compliance will result in liability to pay compensation at the rate of Rs. 10 lakh per month per Local Body for population of above 10 lakhs, Rs. 5

lakh per month per Local Body for population between 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per month per other Local Body. If the Local Bodies are unable to bear financial burden, the liability will be of the State Governments with liberty to take remedial action against the erring Local Bodies. Apart from compensation, adverse entries must be made in the ACRs of the CEO of the said Local Bodies and other senior functionaries in Department of Urban Development etc. who are responsible for compliance of order of this Tribunal.

....."

Earlier another complaint was filed by one – Sh. Davinder Pal Singh in the Hon'ble NGT bearing OA No. 434 of 2023 titled as Davinder Pal Singh vs. State of Punjab against burning of solid waste in open places and bulk waste burning in landfill site located near Badi Nadi, Patiala. Further, it was alleged that regular fires at Municipal Corporation garbage dump site near Badi Nadi is playing havoc with lives of inhabitants of adjoining colonies and damaging environment.

Municipal Corporation, Patiala was last given personal hearing before the Chairman of the Board on 14.02.2024 for violation of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, wherein it was decided as under: -

- 1) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall deposit the balance amount of Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 31 Lakhs immediately without any further delay.
- 2) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall submit interim report regarding risk assessment study and on-site and off-site emergency plan of dump site from Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology (TIET), Patiala in the first week of March, 2024 in the O/o Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala. Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala shall personally review the progress in this regard on weekly basis and to send report accordingly.
- 3) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall expedite the tendering process for the bioremediation of legacy waste and shall ensure that the bioremediation of the legacy waste lying at the dump site be carried out at the earliest. Further, Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall not dispose off any fresh waste at the dump site. Municipal solid waste of the city is handled as per provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- 4) Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Patiala shall calculate the Environmental Compensation to be imposed on the Municipal Corporation, Patiala for non-compliance of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 including non-bioremediation of legacy waste period 1/10/2023 to 31/1/2024 and send the same to the EPA Cell to issue orders in this regard.
- 5) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall connect its CCTV cameras installed at dump site with the Board's server within 15-days. Asstt. Environmental Engineer (OS-WM), Head Office, Patiala shall monitor these CCTV cameras and in case any fire incident is observed, the concerned officer shall inform to the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala immediately for taking action against the Municipal Corporation authorities.
- 6) Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala shall collect the groundwater sample from the piezometers installed by Municipal Corporation, Patiala and from the nearby vicinity (as reference sample) within 15-days.
- 7) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall make its ETP operational, which is provided for treatment of leachates being generated from the legacy dump site by 28/2/2024 positively.
- 8) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall obtain authorization under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 by 28/2/2024.
- 9) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall submit bank guarantee amounting to Rs. 10 Lakhs as an assurance to comply with the all the commitments given above as well as recommendations of the Joint Committee within given time frame immediately.
- 10) Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall involve its horticulture wing to provide plantation along the boundary of the dump site and ensure that 50% work be completed by 10/3/2024 and remaining by 10/4/2024.

The proceedings of the personal hearing dated 14.02.2024 were conveyed to the MC, Patiala vide Board's letter no. 12477 dated 29.02.2024 for compliance.

The Hon'ble NGT on 07.08.2024 has disposed off the OA No. 434 of 2023 titled as Davinder Pal Singh vs State of Punjab with directions to Municipal Corporation, Patiala for compliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. The relevant paras of the order dated 07.08.2024 of the Hon'ble NGT are reproduced below:

"Report of MCP showed that there was legacy waste of 279 lakhs MT where against 150 lakh Mt was remediated by M/s Ankansha Enterprises (Service Provider) engaged by MCP and for remediation of rest of legacy waste, tenders were floated. However, details of manner in which legacy waste was processed, reply could not be given. Time was granted to MCP to submit a detailed report covering all aspects vide Tribunal's order dated 16.07.2024.

Pursuant thereto, MCP has submitted its report/reply dated 31.07.2024, relevant extracts of reply reads as under:-

That the total daily waste generation of Patiala city is 219 Tonne per Day (as on 31/07/2024) (TPD) and the processing capacity of Municipal Corporation Patiala is 160 TPD. The bifurcation of processing of waste is in tabulated form is as below:

Waste Category	Waste Generation (TPD)	Processed (TPD)	Waste sent to dump
Wet waste	133	109	24
Dry waste	86	51	35
Total	219	160	59

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala generates 133 TPD of wet waste out of which 109 TN wet waste is being processed in different manner.

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala generates 86 TPD of dry waste out of which 51 TPD of dry waste is being processed by Municipal Corporation Patiala in different manner.

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala has executed an agreement dated 16/01/2024 with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association) an NGO to setup a processing plant of 5 TPD for wet waste processing and 5 TPD for dry waste at Focal Point, MIZI7 Centre.

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala has executed an agreement dated 16/01/2024 with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association) an NGO for setting up recycling plant of Multiple Layer of Plastic (MLP) with the capacity of 8 TPD and this plant will be operational in the month of August

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala has executed an agreement with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association) an NGO to setup 40 Aero bins for processing of wet and thy waste with capacity of 400 ltr at 10 gated localities of the city.

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala has executed contract with M/s Hari Bhari Recyclable Pvt. Ltd. for door-to-door collection for a period of 10 years w.cf. from 9/10/2018. The work is under progress and the agency is collecting segregated wet & dry waste from the households and the agency is charging user charges from the households as fixed by the General House of the Corporation

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala is going to setup 100 TPD waste processing plant by the end of December 2024 with the help of Hari Bhari Recyclable Pvt. Ltd., the same agency responsible for door-to-door collection of Municipal Solid waste.

That the Municipal Corporation Patiala has floated tender for the setting up Compressed Bio-gas Plant of 100 TPD capacity at Village Dhudhad. The land has already been arranged and the plant will likely to be commissioned by the end of Dec 2026.

Commissioner, MCP present in Tribunal stated that tender process shall be completed very soon and legacy waste in all probability will be remediated by 31.12.2024. With regard to processing of daily generated solid waste, it is submitted that though presently there is a gap of processing of 59 TPD but steps have been taken for its processing by engaging another Service Provider and by 31.12.2024, it shall be ensured that daily generated solid waste also gets processed and disposal in a regular manner.

In view of above stand taken by Municipal Commissioner, MCP and also considering reply/report dated 31.07.2024, we find it appropriate to dispose of this O.A by directing Municipal Commissioner, MCP to take steps as stated before Tribunal to complete the entire process by 31.12.2024 and submit a compliance report by 15.01.2025 with the Registrar General of this Tribunal, who if finds necessary, shall place the matter before the Bench for further order."

Current Status: -

- I. The Regional Office, Patiala of the Board has received various telephonic complaints w.r.t open burning of solid waste at various locations / areas in Patiala city. The various locations / areas of Patiala city were visited by the officers of this office in the 1st week of April, 2025 and it was observed that solid waste is being collected and burnt in open at various locations.
- II. On receiving telephonic complaints, the solid waste dump site near Sanouri Adda adjoining to Badi Nadi was visited by the officers of the Board on 11.04.2025 and it was observed as under:



- 60**
- a) Solid waste dumped at various pockets was found under fire at the dump site and a lot of emissions were found coming from the same thus creating air pollution.
 - b) One number fire brigade at the site was trying to douse of the fire at dump site.
 - c) Sanitary inspector, Municipal Corporation, Patiala was contacted on the site and he informed that the fire started due to short circuit from the high-tension electric wires, passing above the dump site. He further informed that they are trying of douse the fire for last two days, using fire brigades. However, due to high wind speed and methane generation, the fire could not be control completely.
 - d) The Water hydrants earlier installed at the dump site were not in operation or under use.
 - e) Methane Detectors earlier installed at dump site no longer existed.
 - f) Municipal Corporation has not provided any fencing at boundaries at dump site, due to the reason mentioned earlier by the MCP that due to uneven land boundaries, it was very difficult to create fencing.
 - g) CCTV, Cameras installed at the dump site were found not in operation and are in offline mode with Punjab Pollution Control Board Server.
 - h) A lot of legacy waste was found dumped at the site and no Bio- remediation was being done for treatment of legacy solid waste. As per the data submitted by MC, Patiala in the last District Environment Committees meeting, 100% of legacy waste is remediated (1st phase) & in Phase 2 total about 143000 Ton legacy waste remediation is pending. Further, it has been intimated that 95% source segregation is being done but during visit, it was observed that lot of fresh mixed waste was stored at the dump site. The representative of the MC, Patiala informed that waste from outside Patiala city is also coming to the site.
 - i) ETP earlier installed at dump site was found in abandoned condition.
 - j) Municipal Corporation has not installed the proposed CBG plant at Vill. Dudhar, Teh & Distt. Patiala.
- III. Municipal Corporation Patiala has executed an agreement dated 16/01/2024 with IPCA (Indian Pollution Control Association) for setting up recycling plant of Multiple Layer of Plastic (MLP) with the capacity of 8 TPD.
- a) IPCA is engaged for the manufacturing of Recycled Plastic Board @ 10 MT/Day by using Rigid Plastic @ 1, Flexible Plastic @ 2 MT/Day, Multi Layered Plastic @ 7 MT/Day as raw material and was granted consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, vide no. CTOW/Varied/PTA/2024/26938518 dated 18/10/2024 and under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide no. CTOA/Varied/PTA/2024/26937734 dated 18/10/2024, both having validity upto 30/09/2028.
 - b) MC, Patiala was earlier visited by the officers of the Board and it was observed that the industry was found using maximum quantity of fresh cuttings of multi-layer plastic with mixing of 5 to 10 % waste multi-layer plastic obtained through local scavengers.
 - c) Manufacturing capacity of the IPCA unit was approximately 4.0 TPD, which is significantly below the proposed capacity of 10.0 TPD. As per record of IPCA for purchase of raw material for the period 01.04.2024 to 30.01.2025, the industry has purchased 253.4 Ton of MLP waste and 221.2 Ton of Flexible waste. However, no rigid plastic is purchased as per record.
 - d) IPCA has submitted purchase bills for which reflects purchase of waste plastic bails from different Municipal Corporation/ Committees @15.2 Ton i.e. 1.59 Ton of MLP plastic waste from MC SAS Nagar, 3.5 Ton of plastic waste with no defined category waste from MC Ropar, 1.59 Ton of plastic waste with no defined category waste from MC Zirakpur & 4.96 Ton of MPL plastic waste from MC Shanewal, 3.5 Ton of MPL plastic waste from MC Zirakpur, for the period 13.12.2024 to 28.01.2025.

No MLP has been received from MC Patiala. This implies that MC, Patiala is not sending the dry segregated waste to IPCA.

Municipal Corporation, Patiala has not abided with the timelines as per the judgment/orders dated 07.08.2024 in OA No. 434 of 2023 titled as Davinder Pal Singh vs State of Punjab for remediation of its legacy waste, wherein it was directed to ensure that daily generated solid waste also gets processed and disposal in a regular manner by 31.12.2024.

Besides of fire incident at main Municipal dump site of MC Patiala, there are around 11 different locations where Regional Office has found burning of Municipal Solid Waste i.e. near Polytechnic College, Kuber Hospital, Atma Ram Sohal Lal ground etc.

Municipal Corporation, Patiala is violating the orders of Hon'ble Tribunal and with the decisions of the personal hearing given on 14.02.2024 as well as the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

The matter has been considered by the Competent Authority and it has been decided to issue notice u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to MC, Patiala for violation of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, after affording an opportunity of personal hearing, due to aforesaid violations.

Now, therefore, the Punjab Pollution Control Board, in exercise of the powers conferred upon its u/s 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for violation of the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, proposes to issue the certain directions including imposition of Environment Compensation on the Municipal Corporation, Patiala for damaging the environment.

As such, notice to issue directions u/s 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for violating the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 issued to the MC, Patiala vide Board's letter no. 504 dated 25/04/2025 alongwith an opportunity to appear in person before the Chairman of the Board in his office at Vatavaran Bhawan, Head Office Nabha Road, Patiala on 07.05.2025 at 11:00 AM.

Thereafter, the Senior Environmental Engineer (EPA) informed that the Environmental Compensation of Rs. 55.0 lacs had already been imposed on the MC, Patiala for the period of 01/07/2020 upto 31.12.2024 out of which only Rs. 9.0 lacs has been deposited by the MC, Patiala so far.

The representative of the MC, Patiala attended the hearing and submitted a written reply which was taken on record. She informed that MC, Patiala has permanently deployed a fire brigade vehicle to prevent accidental fires at the dump site. The Methane detectors installed earlier had become non-operational because of technical glitch in the wiring system. The same has been rectified and two Methane detectors installed at dump site have been made functional. She further informed that due to the large amount of garbage at the main garbage dump, fencing was difficult but they have made 8 CCTV cameras operational and apart from this 10 more CCTV shall be installed. She informed that MC, Patiala has allotted the work of legacy waste remediation to a private firm – Sagar Motors for 143000 ton and the performance of the firm was slow therefore, a termination of work notice was issued to it and now the speed of the remediation at the dump site has been increased. She assured to ensure the compliance of the decisions of the hearing earlier given by the Board, NGT directions as well as no fire incident at dump site in any circumstance.

During the hearing it was observed that Regional Office has sent its report of the compliances w.r.t the decisions taken by the Competent Authority during the personal hearing of MC, Patiala of 14.02.2024 after the lapse of more than one year and even only after the incident of fire happened at dump site and no efforts were made for making the compliance of the directions issued to the MC, Patiala by persuasion of the matter with the concerned officers of the MC, Patiala. Further, Regional Office has neither sent the details of the ground water samples from the piezometers as decided in the personal hearing nor given the details w.r.t bank guarantee to be deposited by the MC, Patiala.

After hearing the representative of the MC, Patiala, officers of the Board and considering the material aspects of the case, the Chairman of the Board decided as under: -

1. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall deposit the balance amount of Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 46.0 lacs imposed on it upto 31.12.2024 to the Board immediately.
2. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall expedite the process for the bio-remediation of legacy waste and shall ensure that the bio-remediation of the legacy waste lying at the dump site be carried out without any further delay.
3. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall immediately comply with the commitments given by it before the Hon'ble NGT in O.A no. 434 of 2023 titled as Davinder Pal Singh vs State of Punjab and submit compliance report of the same in the O/o Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala.
4. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall immediately submit bank guarantee amounting to Rs. 10 lacs as decided in the last personal hearing held on 14.02.2024 as an assurance to comply with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
5. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall ensure that no fire incident at the dump site as well as in the city be occurred in any circumstance.
6. Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall immediately make its ETP operational for treatment of leachates being generated from the legacy dump site.

7. The MC shall devise the ways & means to **62** minimize the generation of all kind of wastes through REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE activities. The generated waste, if any, shall be properly handled and managed as per the provisions of the Municipal Solid Waste Rules, 2016 in an environmentally sound manner.
8. The MC may also develop the vermicomposting/composting to manage the biodegradable solid waste.
9. MC will take regular inspections and appropriate actions against the violators of ban on single use plastic, plastic carry bags as well as persons/vendors who throw, burn or bury any solid wastes in open, outside premises or in drain / water bodies.
10. A show cause notice shall be issued to the concerned Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala for not checking the compliance status of the decisions of the personal hearing given to the MC, Patiala on 14.02.2024 in time bound manner and send its report after more than one year i.e. only after the reported fire incident at site.
11. A team of the Officers of the Board comprising Er. Parveen Saluja, Senior Environmental Engineer (HQ-3), Er. Gurkaran Singh, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala, Er. Dharamvir Singh, AEE, Regional Office, Patiala shall visit the dump site, verify the contentions made by the MC during the hearing, verify the compliance various commitments made by the MC in the Hon'ble NGT and other compliances w.r.t. Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 within 15 days and submit its report with concrete recommendations. A'
12. Further action shall be taken after the receipt of the report from Regional Office, Patiala within 15 days.

You are, therefore, requested to comply with the aforesaid decisions of the personal hearing.

Endst. no. 913

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Senior Environmental Engineer (HQ-3), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Patiala for information and compliance.

st
Environmental Engineer (ZP-1)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Dated 12/5/25

Endst. no. _____

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Patiala for information and compliance.

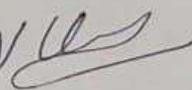
[Signature]
Environmental Engineer (ZP-1)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Dated _____

Pl. Chart out plan for the visit with RO, Patiala as per 'A'
ਨਵੀਂ ਡਾਕ ਖੰਜਾਰ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਕ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
ਸੀਨੀਅਰ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ ਈ. ਪੀ. ਏ., ਪਟਿਆਲਾ
ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਇੰਜੀ. 1/2/3/ਸੀ.ਸਹਾ, ਫਾਇਰੀ ਨੰ: 356.....
ਹੈਡ ਕੁਆਟਰ-3, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ ਮਿਤੀ 13/5/25

st
Environmental Engineer (ZP-1)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Statement of the Complainant Sh. Sanjiv Kumar, in the matter of original application no. 213/2025 titled as Sanjiv Kumar Vs State of Punjab.

⇒ Today on 08-07-2025, the dump site of MC, Patiala was visited by the Joint Committee to verify the factual position & to look into the grievance of Complainant. Accordingly, the Complainant Sh. Sanjiv Kumar was also requested to visit the site alongwith the Joint Committee. During visit, the remediation of legacy waste was in progress & no burning of waste was observed. The Complainant informed that no burning of legacy waste/any waste was observed from past 2-3 months. He also informed the team that no issue of smell/odour is being faced by them at present.

Sanjiv Kumar 
(Sh. Sanjiv Kumar, Complainant)

Date = 08-07-2025