

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**  
**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 600 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF:-**

Shri Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through its President Sh. Bal Krishna Singla

... APPLICANT

VERSUS

... RESPONDENTS

STATE OF PUNJAB & ORS.

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Through



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Place:- Delhi

Dated:- 02.02.2026

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

**Original Application No.600/2025**

**Report of Joint Committee, in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 04.12.2025 in Original Application No. 600 of 2025 in the matter of Shri Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through its President Sh. Bal Krishna Singla Versus State of Punjab & Ors.**

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**1.0 Background and the Directions of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal:**

In the matter of Original Application No. 600 of 2025, a letter petition has been submitted by Sh. Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through its President Shri Bal Krishna Singla highlighting the dumping of municipal solid waste adjoining the cremation ground at Ghalori Gate, Patiala. Considering the environmental and public health issues raised, the applicant, a long-standing social welfare organization, has alleged that continuous dumping of city garbage by the Municipal Corporation, Patiala has resulted in large garbage heaps, foul odour, and severe inconvenience to mourners and workers at the cremation ground, causing health issues such as nausea and dizziness. Despite repeated representations and public protests, no effective remedial action has been taken. The Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 04.12.2025 in the matter (**Attached as Annexure-1**) directed in Para 08, 09 as reproduced below:

***"Para-08:** In view of the averments in the application, we consider it appropriate to have response of (1) State of Punjab through Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Punjab (2) District Magistrate, Patiala (3) Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) through Member Secretary (4) Municipal Corporation, Patiala through its Commissioner who stand impleaded as respondents No. 1 to 4. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties to the*

application and issue notices to respondents' No. 1 to 4 requiring them to file their replies /responses within one month.

**Para-09:** *In view of the averments made in the application, we also consider it appropriate that a Joint Committee be constituted to verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, we constitute a Joint Committee comprising of representatives of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), PPCB 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, verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action by following due course of law and submit its report within one month. The PPCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance."*

## **2.0. Compliance of the orders of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal:**

### **2.1. Constitution of the Joint Committee:**

In compliance to the Orders of Hon'ble NGT, a Joint Committee comprising of the following members was constituted:

- i. Smt. Ismat Vijay Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner (UD) (Member nominated by District Magistrate, Patiala)
- ii. Er. Kanwaldeep Kaur, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Patiala (Member nominated by PPCB and nodal agency)
- iii. Er. Jagdish Prasad Meena, Scientist 'E', CPCB Regional Directorate, Chandigarh (Member nominated by Member Secretary)

### **2.2. Site Visit by Joint Committee:**

The site visit was conducted by the Joint Committee on 06.01.2026. The complainant has raised the following two main issues in its complaint:

- i. Mountain-like heaps of municipal garbage has been dumped by Municipal Corporation, Patiala adjacent to the Ghalori Gate

Cremation Ground, Patiala.

- ii. This causes intense foul smell, making it difficult to perform cremation rituals, with people experiencing vomiting, giddiness, and discomfort.

At the time of the visit, the complainant, Shri Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through its President Shri Bal Krishna Singla, was not present. However, a representative, Shri Jora Singh, Caretaker of the Ghalori Gate Cremation Ground, was present and the Committee interacted with him to understand the issues. Further, two representatives of the Municipal Corporation, Patiala, namely Dr. Navinder Singh, Medical Officer and Sh. Harwinder Singh, Sanitary Inspector, were also present during the site inspection.

### **2.3 Feedback from the Complainant Sh. Jora Singh:**

At the time of visit, Sh. Jora Singh, Caretaker of Cremation Ground, Ghalori Gate informed that the leachate is coming out in the premises of cremation ground from the adjacent dump site, which has destroyed their plants and foul smell makes environment unhealthy, which cause nuisance in the cremation ground.

### **3.0 Observations of the Committee during site visit 06.01.2026:**

1. At the time of the visit, the Committee observed that the Ghalori Gate Cremation Ground is located adjacent to the Municipal Solid Waste dumping ground of Patiala city.
2. During the site visit, the Committee observed a garbage heaps of approximately 20 feet in height along one side of the Ghalori Gate Cremation Ground, abutting the cremation premises.
3. It was further informed by the representative of the Municipal Corporation, Patiala that a part of the cremation ground land has been leased out for carrying out biomining/bioremediation of the legacy waste dumped at the site.
4. During the inspection, the Committee experienced foul smell in the

- vicinity. The cremation ground workers further stated that the odour intensity increases when the wind direction is towards the cremation ground, resulting in discomfort to the persons present at the site.
5. During the visit, the Committee interacted with the representatives of the cremation ground, who informed that leachate generated from the adjacent dumped waste is flowing into the cremation ground premises, and that such leachate discharge has resulted in damage to trees and vegetation within the cremation ground area.
  6. The Committee additionally observed leachate flow and stagnation towards the cremation ground side abutting the dump site. The cremation ground representatives further informed that the volume of leachate increases during the rainy season, and therefore the possibility of leachate runoff entering into the cremation ground premises cannot be ruled out, posing potential environmental and public health concerns.
  7. The Committee observed that the Municipal Corporation, Patiala has not provided any catch pit or leachate collection drain for managing the leachate generated from the dumped solid waste. The committee noted that no leachate collection and treatment system has been installed, and the leachate remains stagnated within the dump site, posing a potential environmental and groundwater contamination risk.
  8. As informed by the Municipal Corporation, Patiala, approximately 2.5 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of legacy waste has been dumped at the site, covering an area of about 8 acres. The biomining/bioremediation work is stated to be carried out through a tendered agency, and it was further informed that around 33,000 MT of legacy waste has been remediated so far.
  9. It was observed that no buffer zone or green belt has been maintained by the Municipal Corporation, Patiala along the boundary abutting the cremation ground and other side, which is essential to

minimize odour nuisance, prevent leachate migration, and mitigate environmental impacts.

10. At the time of the visit, the committee observed that bioremediation and bio-mining processes were carried out at these dump sites. Further, representatives of the Municipal Corporation, Patiala informed that the screened fractions generated from the bioremediation/biomining process, i.e., RDF and other screened fractions, have accumulated at the dump site.
11. Photographs taken during site visit is shown as per **Annexure-II**.

#### **4.0 Action Taken by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) :**

##### **4.1. Guidelines and directions issued by CPCB and compliance by SPCBs/PCCs: Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste**

CPCB has prepared "Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste (Old Municipal Solid Waste)", February 2019 under the provision of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, as to ensure that concerned Local Authorities engaged in the bio-mining process of legacy waste follow procedures with specific compliance to the following points;

- a) Analysis of various screened fraction materials i.e. RDF, fine earth / bio earth etc., prior to its disposal/utilization.
- b) Preparation of plan for utilization/disposal of screened fractions.
- c) Adequate provisions for leachate treatment.
- d) Maintenance of records / documents for disposal/utilization of the RDFs or fine earth and other materials

##### **4.2 Directions issued on Bio-mining :**

CPCB issued Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all SPCB/ PCCs for bio-mining of legacy waste on 27.1.2021. CPCB had also directed all states to submit the action taken report within 30 days

of issuance of this directions. The following directions were issued for compliance by the SPCBs/PCCs:

1. SPCBs/PCCs to provide complete list of Legacy Waste dumpsites in their States/UTs as per format enclosed.
2. SPCBs/PCCs to ensure that necessary action for bio mining and bioremediation of these dumpsites is done by the concerned Local Authorities in compliance with Provisions of SWM Rules, 2016.
3. SPCBS / PCCs shall ensure that concerned Local Authorities engaged in the bio mining process of legacy waste 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. SPCBs / PCCs 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 SWM Rules, 2016 and Hon'ble NGT Directions on the matter are to be adhered to for remediation of these sites.
5. SPCBs / PCCs to ensure that no fresh waste is disposed at these dumpsites and local authorities make proper arrangement for management of fresh solid waste.
6. SPCBs to ensure that at least one legacy waste dumpsite is remediated in their jurisdiction which can be considered as model for compliance for other legacy Waste dump sites in Non-Attainment Cities (NAC). Copy of the directions on bio-mining of legacy waste is attached as

**Annexure-III.**

**Committee Suggestion:**

1. The Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall ensure bio-remediation and bio-mining of the existing legacy waste dump sites within its jurisdiction, in compliance with the CPCB directions issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, dated January 27, 2021, regarding biomining of legacy waste.
2. The Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall install an appropriate leachate collection and effluent treatment system at the dump site to ensure proper treatment of the leachate prior to disposal.
3. The Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall construct a catch-pit drain around the dump site to ensure proper collection of leachate prior to treatment/disposal.
4. The Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall develop a dense green belt adjoining the cremation ground, with the assistance of the Forest Department and/or the Municipal Corporation Horticulture Department, to minimize odour-related issues and to function as a buffer zone.
5. The Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall ensure the immediate removal of waste dumped towards the cremation ground, prohibit any further dumping at this location, and undertake restoration of the area in compliance with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
6. The Municipal Corporation, Patiala shall prepare and implement an adequate plan for the disposal and management of the screened fractions accumulated at the site in an environmentally sound manner.

  
**Ismat Vijay Singh**  
Additional Deputy  
Commissioner (UD)

  
**Er. Kanwaldeep Kaur**  
Environmental Engineer,  
Regional Office, Patiala

  
**Er. Jagdish Prasad  
Meena**  
Scientist 'E',  
CPCB, Regional  
Directorate, Chandigarh

Item No.03

Court No. 2

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

Original Application No. 600/2025

Shri Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through  
its President Sh. Bal Krishna Singla

Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab &amp; Ors.

Respondents

Date of hearing: 04.12.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: None for the Applicant.

**ORDER**

1. Shri Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through its President Sh. Bal Krishna Singla, has sent the present letter petition to this Tribunal by post, which has been treated and registered as O.A. No. 600/2025 for exercise of suo moto jurisdiction in view of law laid down by Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha, (2022) 13 SCC 401.***

2. The original application has been registered with title in the name of 'Bal Krishan Singla' personally instead of registering the same in the name of 'Shri Sanatan Dharam Kumar Sabha through its President Sh. Bal Krishna Singla' and title of the original application is ordered to be corrected accordingly.

3. The relevant part of the letter petition enumerating grievances of the applicant is reproduced as follows:-

xxx.....xxx.....xxx

*“Sub.: Heaps of garbage adjoining Cremation Grounds. Ghalori Gate, Patiala*

*Hon'ble Sir,*

*Respectfully stated that the mountain type heaps of garbage has come to everyone's neck intolerable even to cremate the bodies*

*Please give strict orders to Municipal Corporation, Patiala.”*

4. The applicant has enclosed copy of letter with the letter petition. The relevant part of the letter reads as under:-

*“Sub.: Request for immediate removal of garbage dump.*

*Hon'ble Sir,*

*We are 113 years old an NGO running 17-18 institutions in the service of people of Patiala. To name a few some, Aggarsain Hospital, Apahaj Ashram (for differently abled people), Bal Niketan for orphan School, three community centres, two cremation Grounds etc.*

*One Cremation Ground at Rajpura Road has no its match in Punjab. Everyone appricates. The another ground situated at Ghalori Gate has become a shame for us. It is so much filled with foul smell as people who come along for cremation, finds difficult to stand. The cremationare controlled by our employees as many people start vomiting and giddiness with foul smell. The reason is Municipal Corporation unloading total city garbage adjoining.*

*The Corporation has created hell for the people. People living nearby, has demonstrated many times but no effect on deaf ears. Sir, it may lead to some epidemic.*

*While keeping in mind the people's problem and our concerns, we request you Sir, please relieve us from this unbearable problem.”*

5. The applicant has not appeared today personally or through authorized representative.

6. We have gone through the original application and documents enclosed with the same.

7. *Prima facie* the averments made in the application raise substantial questions relating to environment arising out of the implementation of the

enactments specified in Schedule-I to the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

8. In view of the averments in the application, we consider it appropriate to have response of (1) State of Punjab through Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Punjab (2) District Magistrate, Patiala (3) Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) through Member Secretary (4) Municipal Corporation, Patiala through its Commissioner who stand impleaded as respondents No. 1 to 4. The Registry is directed to prepare and attach memo of parties to the application and issue notices to respondents No. 1 to 4 requiring them to file their replies/responses within one month.

9. In view of the averments made in the application, we also consider it appropriate that a Joint Committee be constituted to verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action. Accordingly, we constitute a Joint Committee comprising of representatives of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), PPCB 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, verify the factual position and take appropriate remedial action by following due course of law and submit its report within one month. The PPCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

10. List on 06.02.2026 for further consideration.

11. The applicant may be informed about the next date of hearing fixed and be asked to join the proceedings physically or through V.C. on the date fixed.

12. A copy of this order may be sent to the Member Secretary, CPCB, Member Secretary, PPCB and District Magistrate, Patiala by email for requisite compliance.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

December 04<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Original Application No. 600/2025  
AB

Photographs taken during the day of visit on 06.01.2026



View of Solid Waste Heap



View of Solid Waste Heap



View of Leachate & dumping of fresh waste at Dump Site



View of Solid Waste Heap



View of Solid Waste Heap & Leachate collection tank



View of Solid Waste Heap towards Cremation Ground



**View of Solid Waste Heap**



**View of Solid Waste Heap**



**View of Collection of leachate at Cremation Ground sides pits**



**View stagnation of Leachate and Dry trees at Cremation Ground area**



**View seepage of Leachate and Dry trees at Cremation Ground**



**View of weigh bridge for bioremediation trucks**



Annexure - III

**SPEED POST****Annexure III**

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE GOVT. OF INDIA

F. No. B-11011/UPC-II/MSW(Direction)/2020-21

27 .01.2021

To,

15320-15354

The Chairman,  
All SPCBs/PCCs

**Direction under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for enforcement of Provisions of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 regarding bio mining of legacy waste.**

**WHEREAS**, the Central Government has notified the standards for discharge of environmental pollutants from various categories of industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rules framed there under;

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

**WHEREAS**, under Rule 15(z) of SWM Rules, 2016 local authorities and village Panchayats shall investigate and analyse all old open dumpsites and existing operational dumpsites for their potential of bio-mining and bio-remediation and whosoever feasible, take necessary actions to bio-mine or bio-remediate the sites;

**WHEREAS**, under Rule 16(a) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee shall enforce these rules in their State through local bodies in their respective jurisdiction and review implementation of these rules at least twice a year in close coordination with concerned Directorate of Municipal Administration or Secretary-in-charge of State Urban Development Department;

**WHEREAS**, remediation of all Dumpsites has to be completed by April 7, 2021 as per Rule 22 of SWM Rules, 2016.

**WHEREAS**, in compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order dated 16.01.2019 in the matter of OA no. 606/2018, CPCB published Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy waste;

**WHEREAS**, Hon'ble NGT has issued several Directives on the matter including the following:

Contd.

'परिवेश भवन' पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

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

-2-

- (i) In OA no. 519/2019, all Chief Secretaries, States/UTs to ensure completion of remediation of dumpsites by October, 2020.
- (ii) In OA no. 53/2020, CPCB to complete inventorization of dumpsites in the Country.
- (iii) In OA no. 593/2017, CPCB to compile information related to Legacy Waste Management and identify gaps thereof.

**WHEREAS** in compliance with above orders of Hon'ble NGT, several communications dated 14.05.2020, 28.07.20 & 31.07.2020 have been issued by CPCB to States/UTs to provide requisite information on the matter.

**WHEREAS** complete information on the matter is yet to be received from all States/UTs.

**WHEREAS**, CPCB officials inspected dumpsites in various States where bioremediation of legacy waste is being carried out and made the following observation:

- i. Most of the ULBs engaged in the bio mining process of the legacy waste not following CPCB Guidelines on disposal of legacy waste.
- ii. Analysis of different screened fractions is not being carried out prior to disposal/utilization.
- iii. Poor quality of screen fractions and screened fractions not being lifted by the users.
- iv. Adequate plan for disposal of screened fractions at the dumpsites not prepared and screened fractions accumulated on site.
- v. No leachate treatment being carried out and stagnation of leachate noticed at the dumpsites.
- vi. Records/documents for the sale of the RDFs, inerts and other materials not maintained.
- vii. Fresh Solid Waste continued to be dumped at these dumpsites.

**WHEREAS**, vide Order dated 21-8-2020 in the matter of OA no. 681/2018, Hon'ble NGT directed CPCB to issue fresh Direction in this regard to all the State PCBs/ PCCs to coordinate with concerned Local Authorities for further Action in the matter. Further, as per the Hon'ble NGT's Direction, at least one site is to be remediated and made a model of compliance in each of the 122 Non-Attainment Cities;

Contd.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in view of the above and in exercise of powers delegated to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the following directions are issued for compliance:

1. SPCBs/PCCs to provide complete list of Legacy Waste dumpsites in their States/UTs as per format enclosed.
2. SPCB/PCCs to ensure that necessary action for biomining and bio-remediation of these dumpsites is done by the concerned Local Authorities in compliance with Provisions of SWM Rules, 2016.
3. SPCBs/PCCs shall ensure that concerned Local Authorities engaged in the bio mining process of legacy waste 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. SPCBs/PCCs shall ensure that the local bodies prepare time targeted Action Plan for biomining /bio-remediation of these dumpsites in compliance with points listed above. The timelines as specified in SWM Rules, 2016 and Hon'ble NGT Directions on the matter are to be adhered to for remediation of these sites.
5. SPCBs/PCCs to ensure that no fresh waste is disposed at these dumpsites and local authorities make proper arrangement for management of fresh solid waste.
6. SPCBs to ensure that at least one legacy waste dumpsite is remediated in their jurisdiction which can be considered as model for compliance for other legacy waste dumpsites in Non-Attainment Cities (NAC).

SPCBs/PCCs are hereby directed to submit action taken report within **30 days** from receipt of these Directions.

*sd/-*

(Shiv Das Meena)  
Chairman

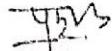
-4-

Copy to:

1. **Joint Secretary (CP),** : For necessary information pls  
**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change,**  
Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi-110003

2. ✓ **DH- IT Division, CPCB**

: For uploading on website pls

  
✓ **(Prashant Gargava)**  
Member Secretary 