

**IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 455 OF 2015**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Dr. Devashish Bhattacharya

...Applicant

Versus

State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.

...Respondents

INDEX

SI. No.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
1.	Rejoinder Affidavit on behalf of the Applicant	1-7
2.	<u>Annexure A/1</u> A true copy of the judgment in <i>M.C. Mehta v. Union of India (Taj Trapezium Zone matters)</i> , highlighting enforcement obligations on coal/coke usage and regulatory compliance	8-17
	<u>Annexure A/2</u> A true typed copy of the photographs showing illegal dumping, open drains, and unhygienic conditions in Petha manufacturing areas, Agra city.	18-24
3	<u>Annexure A/3</u> A true copy of the media report published in <i>The Print</i> dated 16.05.2023, titled Facing mountains of waste & threat of relocation: Agra's Petha industry in a sticky situation.	25-29
4.	<u>Annexure A/4</u>	30

	A true typed copy of media reports published in <i>Dainik Jagran</i> dated 04.04.2025 and others, titled Supreme Court sets three-month deadline for Petha unit relocation; Administration starts demolition.	
5.	<u>Annexure A/5</u> A true copy of the media report published in <i>India Today</i> dated 22.05.2025, titled “Why Agra has no place for Taj of sweet.	31-37
6.	<u>Annexure A/6</u> A true copy of the media report published in <i>CNBC-TV18</i> dated 03.09.2025, titled “Agra's Petha industry faces crisis as Supreme Court orders closure of factories within Taj Trapezium Zone.	38-41
5.	Proof of Service	

Filed by:



[AJIT SHARMA]
ADVOCATE FOR THE APPLICANT

Date: 17.03.2026

Place: New Delhi

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REJOINDER AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT

I, Dr. Devashish Bhattacharya, S/o Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya, aged about 54 years, R/o 16/339 Kali Badi, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the Applicant is a permanent resident of Agra city and is filing the present Rejoinder Affidavit in response to the reply affidavits filed by the Respondents. Except as specifically admitted herein, all averments made by the Respondents contrary to the submissions of the Applicant are denied.
2. That the Respondents in their replies have failed to address the core environmental concerns raised in the Original Application. The statements made in the replies are general and evasive, failing to demonstrate actual compliance with environmental norms and regulatory requirements.
3. That the replies filed by Respondent No. 3 (UPPCB) and Respondent No. 7 (Commissioner of Police, Agra) are selective and proceed on the misplaced assumption that mere issuance of directions or isolated actions constitutes compliance with environmental norms.

4. That the stand of Respondent No. 7, seeking to describe itself as a pro forma respondent with minimal responsibility, is wholly untenable and contrary to the binding directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *M.C. Mehta v. Union of India* (Taj Trapezium Zone matters), wherein enforcement of the ban on coal/coke was specifically entrusted to local authorities, including the police machinery. A true typed copy of relevant extracts of the judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A/1** (Pg. No. 8-17).
5. That environmental compliance cannot be reduced to paper formalities. The doctrines of Precautionary Principle and Polluter Pays Principle, as recognized in *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India* and *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India*, mandate strict and continuous enforcement.
6. That the attempt of Respondent No. 3 to rely upon general improvements, rankings, or awards is legally irrelevant, as the present proceedings concern specific and continuing violations relating to fuel usage and solid waste mismanagement within the TTZ.

II. 2. Continued Violations in Use of Prohibited Fuel

1. The assertion of Respondent No. 3 that all Petha units operate on clean fuel such as Natural Gas/LPG is not reflective of ground reality. A true typed copy of the photographs showing illegal dumping, open drains, and unhygienic conditions in Petha manufacturing areas, Agra city. annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A-2** (Pg. No. 18-24). A true copy of the media report published in *The Print* dated 16.05.2023, titled Facing mountains of waste & threat of relocation: Agra's Petha industry in a sticky situation is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A/3** (Pg. No. 25-29)

2. It is therefore most respectfully submitted that this Hon'ble Tribunal may direct Respondent No. 3 to place on record the actual inspection reports and actions taken against units using coal/coke. A true typed copy of media reports published in *Dainik Jagran* dated 04.04.2025 and others, titled Supreme Court sets three-month deadline for Petha unit relocation; Administration starts demolition. is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A/4 (Pg. No. 30 .**
3. The law laid down in *M.C. Mehta (TTZ Case)* unequivocally mandates complete elimination of polluting fuels. Continued detection of violations reflects a systemic failure in monitoring and enforcement. A true copy of the media report published in *India Today* dated 22.05.2025, titled "Why Agra has no place for Taj of sweet is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A/5 (Pg. No.31-37**

III. The law laid down in *M.C. Mehta (TTZ Case)* unequivocally mandates complete elimination of polluting fuels. Continued detection of violations reflects a systemic failure in monitoring and enforcement, as further detailed in the India Today report (22.05.2025) annexed as Annexure A/-4.

B Failure to Implement Scientific Solid Waste Management

1. Respondent No. 3 claims approximately 7,500 kg of waste is collected daily. However, this claim is not corroborated by ground-level evidence. Photographs (Annexure A-1) and media reports (Annexure A-2) indicate that a significant portion of waste remains uncollected or dumped indiscriminately, causing environmental degradation and clogging of drains.

2. Reliance on vague assertions such as utilization of waste as “animal fodder” is unsupported by any monitoring mechanism, particularly because a large segment of the industry operates in the unorganized sector.
3. The Applicant respectfully requests that this Hon’ble Tribunal direct Respondent No. 3 to place on record complete inspection reports. A true copy of the CNBC-TV18 report dated 03.09.2025 highlighting waste management failures is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure A/6 (Pg. No. 38-41)**.

4. Impracticality of Proposed Relocation

1. The proposed relocation to Kalindi Vihar is impractical due to lack of basic infrastructure, particularly potable water. The use of hard water adversely affects the quality and commercial viability of the product, directly impacting the right to livelihood.
2. Photographic evidence (Annexure A-1) and video recordings demonstrate that necessary environmental infrastructure, including drainage and water supply arrangements, has not been fully developed.
3. Any relocation must be meaningful, workable, and consistent with Article 21 of the Constitution, as held in *Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation*.

5. Need for Accountability and Continuous Monitoring

1. The facts placed on record demonstrate a clear gap between policy formulation and ground-level enforcement.
2. It is therefore submitted that this Hon’ble Tribunal may ensure continuous monitoring of Petha units and time-bound compliance mechanisms.

PRAYER

In view of the above, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to:

- a. Direct the Petha units in Agra city to stop using fossil fuels and stop illegal waste disposal.
- b. Direct ADA and concerned authorities to provide appropriate facilities (including CETP and Ganga Water) for timely relocation outside Agra city.
- c. Direct Respondents to inspect the scale of illegal groundwater use and the plying of trucks during daytime.
- d. Direct Respondent Authorities to prevent the use of diesel generator sets by Petha units.

THROUGH



(AJIT SHARMA)

ADVOCATE FOR THE APPLICANT

Dated: 17.03.2026

Place: New Delhi



IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 455 of 2015

THE MATTER OF:

DEVASHISH BHATTACHARYA
Versus

...APPLICANT

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH AND ORS.

..RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT

I, Dr. Devashish Bhattacharya S/o Dr. A.K Bhattacharya aged about 55 years R/o, R/o-16/339 Kali Badi, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under: -

1. That I am the Applicant in the above mentioned Application and as such I am fully acquainted with the facts, circumstances and records of the instant case and as such competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I further state that the contents of the accompanying Rejoinder has been thoroughly read and understood by me and I declare that the same has been prepared on my instructions.
3. That the contents of the accompanying Rejoinder are all true to my Knowledge. The same has been read over to me and understood by me to be true.
4. That the annexures to the accompanying Rejoinder are true copies of their respective originals.

DEPONENT

Verification:-

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the foregoing paragraphs of the above affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from. Verified by me at _____ on this _____ day of March 2026.



Explained to Shri. Dr. Devashish Bhattacharya
the Deponent who solemnly affirmed and
on oath identified by Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya
M No 9412457522
on This day 17/3/26
Received by Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya
Advocate
Reg. No 1824/2000

Dr. A.K. Bhattacharya
KAVI GUPTA
Advocate

DEPONENT

RAVI GUPTA

Advocate

Reg. No. 1824/2000

M No 9412457522

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

WRIT PETITION(S)(CIVIL) NO(S). 13381/1984

M.C. MEHTA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[TO BE TAKEN UP AT 3.00 P.M.]

(1) IA NO. 376/2003 AND 389/2001 (APPLNS. FOR DIRECTIONS FILED BY AMICUS CURIAE) (2) IA NOS. 387/2000 (APPLN. FOR DIRECTIONS FILED BY AMICUS CURIAE) (3) IA NOS. 478 AND 479/2008 (APPLNS. FOR DIRECTIONS FILED BY PETITIONER-IN-PERSON) "ONLY" IN W.P. (C) NO. 13381/1984 ARE LISTED. "ONLY" NAMES OF THE FOLLOWING ADVOCATES MAY BE TREATED TO HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN THE LIST. PETITIONER-IN-PERSON MR. A.D.N. RAO, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.) MR. LIZ MATHEW, SR. ADV. (A.C.) MR. SIDDHARTHA CHOWDHURY, ADV. (A.C.) MS. AAKASHI LODHA, AOR MS. KESHVI ARYA, Adv. MR. AMRISH KUMAR, MR. M.K. MARORIA, MR. G.S. MAKKER, MR. VIJAY PANJWANI, MR. ANKIT GOEL, MR. KAMLENDRA MISHRA

Date : 03-04-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)
Ms. Liz Mathew, Sr. Adv. (A.C.)
Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury, AOR
Ms. Aakash Lodha, AOR
Mr. Omkar Hemanth, Adv.

For the Parties: Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General
Mrs. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Shivika Mehra, Adv.
Mr. Adit Khorana, Adv.
Mr. Sarthak Karol, Adv.
Mr. T S Sabrish, Adv.
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.
Mr. S. Lamba, Aor, Adv.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR

Mr. Ajit Kumar Sinha, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Supriya Juneja, AOR

Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Nishit Agrawal, AOR

Ms. Kanishka Mittal, Adv.
Ms. Anisha Mahajan, Adv.

Petitioner-in-person

Applicant-in-person, AOR

Mr. Atishi Dipankar, AOR

Mr. Ankur Prakash, AOR

Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR

Mr. Pradeep Misra, AOR
Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Singh, Adv.

Mr. P. Parmeswaran, AOR

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Mr. Vedant Bharadwaj, Adv.
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Mr. Ankit Kumar Chaudhary, Adv.
Dr. D.M. Sharma, Adv.

Mr. Badri Prasad Singh, AOR

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Mr. Saeed Qadri, Adv.
Mr. Saahil Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Danish Ali, Adv.
Mr. Lakshmi Raman Singh, AOR

Mr. Ajit Sharma, AOR
Mr. Yuvrajsinh Solanki, Adv.
Mr. Kanchan Kumar, Adv.

M/S. Lawyer S Knit & Co, AOR

Mrs. Rachana Joshi Issar, AOR

Mr. Kishan Chand Jain, Adv.
Mr. Ashwini Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Adv.
Mr. E.C. Agrawala, AOR

Ms. Nandani Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Krishna Kumar, Adv.
Dr. Mrs. Vipin Gupta, AOR

Mr. Prashant Kumar, AOR

Mr. Rajiv Tyagi, AOR
Mr. Rahul Tyagi, Adv.

Mr. Ajay K. Agrawal, AOR

Mr. Shiv Prakash Pandey, AOR

Mr. Sudhir Kulshreshtha, AOR

Mr. P.K. Manohar, AOR

M/S. Meharia & Company, AOR

Mr. Ankit Goel, AOR

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Mr. Sunny Kapoor, Adv.
Mr. Devesh Maurya, Adv.
Mr. Ravi Kumar, Adv.
Ms. Ashu Tomar, Adv.
Mr. Praveen Swarup, AOR

Mr. Abhinav Agrawal, AOR

Mr. Seshatalpa Sai Bandaru, AOR

Mr. Gaurav Dhingra, AOR

Mr. Prashant, AOR

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Mr. Vinay Rai, Adv.

Mr. Bheem Pratap Singh, Adv.
 Mr. Umesh Dubey, Adv.
 Ms. Madhulika, Adv.
 Mr. Anand Kumar Rai, Adv.
 Ms. Vuzmal Nehru, Adv.

Mr. Satya Kam Sharma, AOR

Mr. Abhishek Chaudhary, AOR

Mr. Syed Abdul Haseeb, AOR

Mr. Anshul Gupta, AOR
 Ms. Kirti Dua, Adv.
 Mr. Rishabh Darira, Adv.
 Mr. Aditya Tainguriya, Adv.

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 Mr. Virender Kumar, Adv.
 Ms. Garima Kumar, Adv.
 Mr. Ashok Kumar Panigrahi, Adv.
 Ms. Lakshmi, Adv.

Mr. N.L. Ganapathi, AOR

Ms. Anju Thomas, AOR
 Ms. Muskan Surana, Adv.

Mr. Anurag Kishore, AOR

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 Mr. Adit Khorana, Adv.
 Mr. Sarthak Karol, Adv.
 Mr. T S Sabrish, Adv.
 Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.

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Mr. Siddhartha Chowdhury, AOR

Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR

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Mr. Rakesh Chander, Adv.

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Mrs. Rajshri Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Chauhan, Adv.
Mr. H.B. Dubey, Adv.
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Mr. Amit Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Sethi, Adv.
Mr. Shashi Bhushan Nagar, Adv.
Mr. Manish Dhingra, Adv.
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M/S. M.V. Kini & Associates, AOR

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Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

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Ms. Rajkumari Banju, AOR

Mr. Sumeer Sodhi, AOR

Mr. Shantanu Krishna, AOR
Mr. Ankit Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Alok Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Saksham Maheshwari, AOR

Mr. Pushkar Sharma, AOR

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

IA No.55641/2025 (PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

1. We direct the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to file a report dealing with the prayers made in this Application within a period of four weeks from today.

2. List the Application immediately after the report is received from the CEC.

IA No.376/2003 (FOR DIRECTIONS)

3. A status report has been filed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which records that all the prayers have been taken care of. We request the CEC to look into the aspect of the compliance and in case it is found that something more needs to be done in relation to the prayers in this Application, the CEC is free to submit a report to this Court.

4. As regards prayer clause (f), a reply dated 21st March, 2025 has been filed on behalf of the State of Uttar Pradesh. The State has set out the steps taken for shifting of the *petha* manufacturing units from the heart of the city of Agra. Certain plots have been carved out for shifting these industries. The State must continue the efforts and ensure that all the *petha* manufacturing units in the heart of the city of Agra are shifted. We grant time of three months to the State to file a further affidavit in this behalf. The further affidavit may indicate the outer limit within which the task of shifting of the *petha* manufacturing units shall be completed by the State.

5. List the Application immediately after the affidavit is filed by the State of Uttar Pradesh.

IA NOS. 387/2000 AND 389/2001 (APPLNS. FOR DIRECTIONS FILED BY AMICUS CURIAE) AND IA NOS. 478 AND 479/2008 (APPLNS. FOR DIRECTIONS FILED BY PETITIONER-IN-PERSON)

6. We direct the CEC to examine the compliances made in connection with the prayers in these Applications and submit a report to this Court within a period of six weeks from today. If the CEC has further suggestions on the issue of greening, the CEC is free to submit its suggestions while submitting the report.

7. List the Applications immediately after the Report is received from the CEC.

IA NO.116768/2018 (PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

8. Perused the last order dated 25th March, 2025.

9. We direct the NEERI to nominate one of its scientists to be a part of the Industrial Area Technical Evaluation Committee (IATEC). The issue regarding implementation of the Sectoral Guidelines framed by the NEERI concerning the glass industries will be considered on 22nd April, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. If the CEC wants to give any suggestions regarding implementation of the Sectoral Guidelines, it is free to do so.

10. We direct that as and when suggestions are required from the ASI regarding implementation of the Sectoral Guidelines for glass industries, the IATEC can request the officers of the ASI to attend the meeting.

IA NOS.79619 (FOR INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT), 79618 (FOR MODIFICATION OF COURT ORDER) AND 79620 OF 2025 (FOR DISPENSING WITH AUTHENTIC TRANSLATION) IN IA NOS.262456 AND 262458/2024

11. Shri Dama Seshadri Naidu, learned senior counsel appearing for the applicant (Gul Mathur) states that an order may be passed in terms of the recommendations in Report No.2/2025 submitted by the CEC and, therefore, he seeks permission to withdraw these Applications.

12. We issue directions in terms of clauses (a) and (b) of paragraph 5 of the Report No.2/2025 dated 23rd January, 2025. The applicant (Gul Mathur) shall make compliance in terms of the recommendations in the said Report and file a compliance affidavit within a period of six weeks from today. List the main IAs being IA Nos.262456/2024 and 262458/2024 immediately after the compliance affidavit is filed.

13. IA Nos.79619, 79618 and 79620 of 2025 are, accordingly, disposed of as withdrawn.

14. Needless to add that the recommendations in Report No.2/2025 are in addition to the recommendations in Report No.33/2024 which have already been accepted by this Court.

REPORT NO.3/2025

15. Issue notice to M/s. Ganapati Infrastructure Development Company Limited, M/s. Ganapati Leasing Infrastructure Private Limited, and the Rail Land Development Authority. The notice is made returnable on 1st

May, 2025 at 12:00 noon. The noticees will be heard on **709**
that date.

16. A copy of this Report shall accompany the notice.

(ASHISH KONDLE)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)



OnePlus 12

HASSELBLAD
47mm f/1.6 1/33s ISO320

Petha Raw Material and Road Encroachment



Galaxy A17 5G
15 March 2026 15:47

Road Encroachment



Industrial Sludge and Road Condition



Open Drains and Stagnant Water



unhygienic conditions in Petha manufacturing areas



Galaxy A17 5G
15 March 2026 15:43

Open Drain



Open Drains and Stagnant Water and Road Encroachment

ThePrint

Home > India > Facing mountains of waste & threat of relocation, Agra's petha industry in...

India

Facing mountains of waste & threat of r Agra's petha industry in a sticky situatio

AMIR QURESHI 16 May, 2023 05:13 pm IST



Workers working in Panchhi Petha factory in Agra | By special arrangement

Agra: No trip to Agra is complete without two quintessential experiences — a visit to the Taj
iconic sweet, the *petha*. A translucent confection made from ash gourd, or white pumpkin, *pe*
India and is also exported to other countries.

Beyond its culinary allure, the *petha* industry in Agra is also a significant economic catalyst for the city. This thriving industry serves as a livelihood for thousands of individuals, generating hundreds of crores of revenue for the city.

Powered By

According to Amit Goyal, managing director of a popular brand Panchhi Petha, today there are about 1000 small-scale units in the city which produce an estimated 700-800 tonnes of *petha* per day.

However, the industry also faces significant challenges in the city due to the immense amount of waste generated, posing a grave challenge for Agra's municipal authorities.

To address the waste issue, the city administration has been in talks with owners of *petha* businesses in Kalindi Vihar. Speaking to ThePrint, Agra Divisional Commissioner Amit Gupta said that at the meeting of the Trapezium Zone (TZZ) authority held last week, the issue of relocation had come up, but the city administration is yet to take a decision. The TZZ is a defined area of 10,400 sq km around the Taj Mahal to protect the monument from pollution.



The city's location on the banks of Yamuna makes it an ideal place to grow ash gourds | By sp

According to a study released in December 2021 by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), 'Agra City', the city's *petha* industry generates around 17,800 kg of solid waste per day, which consists of sugar syrup, and water used in the manufacturing process.

The waste is often dumped in public spaces, which raises the risk of outbreak of diseases like diarrhoea, the study adds.

"Such unauthorised dumping of *petha* waste leads to a foul smell in the area and attracts disease-carrying insects near by residents," K.K. Pandey, project manager at the Agra Municipal Corporation's Swachh

Gupta said the administration has taken several steps to address the problem of *petha* waste.

In 2018, the local administration launched a campaign to educate *petha* producers about the disposal and even provided financial assistance to help *petha* manufacturing units in the purchase of disposal equipment, he said. However, since a large section of the industry falls under the unorganised category, the benefits don't extend to them.

According to a report by the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Ma

10 times more *petha* units in the unorganised sector than in the organised sector.

This is not even the first time that the issue has come up during a TTZ authority meeting. Acc relocation of the *petha* units in TTZ has been in the works for 10 years, but the proposal has fa

The reasons cited include lack of potable water in the proposed locations, lack of a garbage-di transportation.

“In its latest bid to move the *petha* industry, the Agra administration wants to shift all the un Yamuna. But the proposed area lacks even basic amenities...The water in Kalindi Vihar is hard alters the taste of *petha*,” said Goyal of Panchhi Petha.

Sunil Kumar Singhal, a *petha* seller, however, said that the industry has been demanding a ‘P Mandi on the Agra-Delhi Highway for a long time.

By relocating there, he said, the units will have easy access to all amenities such as transporta administration should focus on this demand instead of moving the industry to a location wh

But since the Agra Development Authority (ADA), the nodal agency overseeing the relocation, ‘Petha Nagri’ in Kalindi Vihar, their demand remains unfulfilled, he added.

Also Read: *Monkey menace returns to Taj days before visit of G-20 delegates, ASI says ‘no risk*

Water woes

It is said that *petha* was first created for the Mughal emperor Jahangir, who was looking for a during the summer months. The *petha*, a hit with the emperor, soon became a popular dessert

Since then, the industry around it has continued to grow in Agra, said Amit Goyal. What has a location on the banks of the Yamuna river, where the soil is ideal for growing ash gourd.

However, one of the major challenges it faces is the rising cost of raw materials — one of them

Goyal explained that at his *petha* units, several RO water plants have been installed to get cle sweet is boiled.

“This keeps the taste unaffected. However, operating an RO plant is both costly and a hassle. Smaller *petha* units will not be able to afford its installation and the quality of their *petha* will suffer,” he said.

Speaking to ThePrint, Goyal suggested that the Ganga water pipeline, which is being laid from Agra, can be used to provide water to the *petha* units.

“If the *petha* industry is supplied with Ganga water, there will be less resistance by the industry to shifting plans,” he said.

However, Kalindi Vihar is not on the route of the Ganga water pipeline. It is across the Yamuna. A direct pipeline over the Yamuna, the Ganga water cannot reach Kalindi Vihar anytime soon.

Goyal also said that it would be ideal if all *petha* units are moved at once, rather than in batches.

Agra Divisional Commissioner Amit Gupta agreed. He said although some units are ready to move, a solution to the waste problem would be to move all the *petha* units to one location, where they can be managed by the municipal authorities.

This move will also regulate the *petha* industry, which mostly runs in the unorganised sector.

According to Rajesh Aggarwal, head of the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Petha Kutir Association, the Agra's *petha* industry is part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to destroy “all industries in Agra”.

Speaking to ThePrint, he said that first the long-standing case in the Supreme Court against the environmentalist M.C. Mehta, had resulted in Agra's foundry and leather tanning industry. The *petha* industry is simply the latest victim.

Three attempts have been made to shift the industry out of the city in the past decade, he said. First to Shastripuram, and now to Kalindi Vihar.

“This is impractical,” he added.

(Edited by Richa Mishra)

Also Read: *Why Hindu & Muslim men joined hands in Agra to slaughter calf: 'Wanted business revival'*

स्थानांतरित करनी होंगी शहर में संचालित पेठा निर्माण इकाइयां

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने राज्य सरकार से तीन माह में मांछी कार्य योजना कालिंदी विहार में दो दशक पहले आगरा विकास प्राधिकरण ने बनाई थी पेठा नगरी

जागरण संवाददाता, आगरा: शहर के मध्य में संचालित हो रही पेठा इकाइयों को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने शिफ्ट करने का आदेश गुरुवार को दिया। न्यायमूर्ति अभय एस. ओबरा और उज्ज्वल भुइयां की इक्वल बेंच ने राज्य सरकार को इसके लिए तीन माह का समय उपलब्ध कराया है। राज्य सरकार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में एपीओविट दाखिल कर पेठा इकाइयों को शिफ्टिंग करने की कार्य योजना बताने होंगी।



नूरी दरवाजा स्थित कारखाने में पेठा बनाने का प्रदर्शन • जागरण आर्काइव

शहर के मध्य में नूरी दरवाजा, गेटवाला, ताजगंज, फाउंड्री नगर आदि क्षेत्रों में पेठा निर्माण इकाइयां हैं। पूर्व में कोयले से संचालित होने वाली इकाइयों को गैस उपलब्ध कराई जा चुकी है, लेकिन इनसे निकलने वाला वेस्ट आज भी समस्या बना हुआ है। एडोए ने दो टाक पूर्व कालिंदी विहार में पेठा नगरी बनाई थी। एक टाक से पेठा इकाइयों को शिफ्ट करने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है, लेकिन सुविधाएं न होने का हवाला देकर कारगेवारी इससे बचते रहते हैं। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने ताज ट्रेपेजियम जेन से संबंधित मामलों को सुनवाई करते हुए गुरुवार को पेठा इकाइयों को शहर से हटाने का आदेश दिया। इससे अन्व शहर के मध्य में संचालित हो रही पेठा इकाइयों के समक्ष संकट खड़ा हो गया है। कालिंदी विहार स्थित पेठा नगरी के आसपास भी आवासीय विकसित हो चुकी है। पेठा नगरी में करीब दो दर्जन फ्लैट बिल्ड हैं, जिनमें कारगेवारी रचि नहीं ले रहे हैं।

कब तक होगा नालंदा टाउन के सीवेज का उचित निस्तारण

जास, आगरा: राष्ट्रीय हरित अधिकरण (एनजीटी) की मुख्य बेंच ने नालंदा टाउन का सीवेज खुले में बहाए जाने से संबंधित मामले में गुरुवार को सुनवाई हुई। एनजीटी ने एडीए अधिकारियों से सीवेज की समस्या के निस्तारण को उठाए जाने वाले कदमों की जानकारी की। मामले में अगली सुनवाई अगस्त में प्रस्तावित की गई है। शमसाबाद रोड स्थित नालंदा टाउन के देवांशु बोस ने एनजीटी में याचिका दायर कर कालोनी का सीवेज खुले में बहाए जाने का मुद्दा उठाया था। आ प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड ने बिल्टर पर जुर्माना लगाया था। एनजीटी ने एडीए पर जुर्माना किया था। देवांशु बोस ने नालंदा कालोनी और रजर्ज स्थित 62 कालोनीयों की सीवेज की समस्या भी एनजीटी के समक्ष उठाई थी। एनजीटी के वेयरहोस प्रकाश शीवास्त्व की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच ने गुरुवार को मामले पर गुरुवार को सुनवाई हुई, जिसमें एडीए के अधिकारी आनलाइन शामिल हुए। उन्होंने बेंच को अवगत कराया कि नालंदा टाउन में इन दिनों टैंकर से सीवेज का निस्तारण किया जा रहा है। सीवेज ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट की देखरेख व संचालन को टेंडर कर दिया गया है। शोधित पानी का इस्तेमाल सिंचाई में किया जाएगा। वेस्ट वाटर के लिए 800 मीटर लंबा नाला बनाया जा रहा है। बेंच ने एडीए अधिकारियों को उचित तरीके से सीवेज के निस्तारण व नाला निर्माण का काम कब तक पूरा होगा, यह स्पष्ट बताने के निर्देश दिए।

नहीं हुए शिफ्टिंग के अपेक्षित प्रयास

पेठा नगरी में पेठा इकाइयों की शिफ्टिंग की बातें लंबे समय से चल रही हैं। मगर, इसको लेकर प्रयास द्वारा अपेक्षित प्रयास नहीं किए गए। न ही व्यापारियों को ऐसी सुविधाएं दी गई, जिससे वे आकर्षित हों। इसी कारण पेठा इकाइयों शिफ्ट नहीं हो सकीं।

पेठा उद्योग: एक नजर

- शहर में करीब 500 पेठा इकाइयां हैं।
- इनमें करीब 5000 त्रिमिक काम करते हैं।
- प्रतिदिन 10 हजार लिटर्स पेठा की खपत होती है।

माथुर फार्म हाउस में 17 पेड़ काटने पर 17 लाख जुर्माना

जागरण संवाददाता, आगरा: सुप्रीम कोर्ट की इक्वल बेंच ने गुरुवार को दवालयग के माथुर फार्म हाउस में बिना अनुमति 17 पेड़ काटने पर 17 लाख रुपये का जुर्माना लगाया। कोर्ट ने फार्म हाउस में 17 पौधे रोपने का आदेश दिया। तबज ट्रेपेजियम जेन (टीओजेड) में पेड़ काटने पर लगभग 10 गुणा पौधे रोपने के नियम और जुर्माने के 10 गुणा पौधे के रूप में 340 पौधे लगाने को फार्म हाउस स्वामी को नजदीक में भूमि उपलब्ध कराने होंगी, जिसे राज सरकार वन क्षेत्र के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा। पौधे लगाने और 10 वर्ष तक उनको देखरेख पर ध्यान देने वाली धनराशि वन विभाग में जमा करनी होगी।

दवालयग के माथुर फार्म हाउस में सुप्रीम कोर्ट की अनुमति के बिना 17 पेड़ काट दिए गए थे। दैनिक जागरण द्वारा यह मुद्दा उठाए जाने पर वन विभाग ने न्यू आगरा थाना में 13 अक्टूबर को 17 पेड़ काटने का मुकदमा दर्ज कराया था। पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता डा. शरद गुप्ता ने टीओजेड में पेड़ों को काटने पर रोक लगाने के व्यवजुट हरियाली को क्षति पहुंचाए जाने पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिका दायर की थी। गुरुवार को सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायमूर्ति अभय एस. ओबरा और उज्ज्वल भुइयां की बेंच ने मामले पर सुनवाई की। फार्म हाउस स्वामी के अधिवक्ता ने राहत दिए जाने को प्रार्थना की। न्यायालय ने अवमानना की कार्रवाई करने की बात कही तो अधिवक्ता ने याचिका वापस ले ली। इक्वल बेंच ने फार्म हाउस को मनुष्य के हित क्षेत्र में मानते हुए वहां उसके नियम लागू होने का भी आदेश दिया। केंद्रीय जल आयोग ने जिओ कोऑर्डिनेटर्स के आधार पर मनुष्य का हित क्षेत्र निर्धारित किया है। वादी को फैरवी अधिवक्ता अंशुल गुप्ता व आदित्य पैपेरिया ने को।

• 340 पौधे लगाने को देनी होंगी भूमि, फार्म हाउस में रोपे जाएंगे 17 पौधे

• सुप्रीम कोर्ट में गुरुवार को हुई डा. शरद गुप्ता की याचिका पर सुनवाई



सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश पर सेंट्रल इम्प्लांट कमेटी की टीम ने छह दिनों के माथुर फार्म हाउस का निरीक्षण किया था • जागरण आर्काइव

न्यायालय ने टीओजेड में पेड़ काटने के मामले में प्रति पेड़ एक लाख रुपये जुर्माना निर्धारित किया है। इससे पूर्व मथुरा के डालमिया बाग में भी पेड़ काटने पर प्रति पेड़ एक लाख रुपये जुर्माना लगभग गया था। इससे पेड़ काटने से पूर्व लोग सोचे, जिससे हरियाली का संरक्षण होगा।



डा. शरद गुप्ता, वादी व पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता

गधापाड़ा माल गोदाम में जारी किया नोटिस

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने गधापाड़ा रेलवे माल गोदाम में 115 पेड़ काटने के मामले में भी सुनवाई की। डा. शरद गुप्ता ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में याचिका दायर करने से पूर्व सीईसी के समक्ष इस मामले को उठाया था। न्यायालय ने पूछा कि पेड़ किसने काटे हैं? न्यायालय ने गणपति इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर डवलपमेंट कंपनी लिमिटेड, गणपति लॉजिस्टिक्स इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रॉब्लेमटिड और रेल भूमि विकास प्राधिकरण को नोटिस जारी किया है। सीईसी ने 13 जनवरी को यहां निरीक्षण करने के बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट में 115 पेड़ काटे जाने, इसके लिए बिडर को ब्लैकी मानते हुए प्रति पेड़ एक लाख रुपये जुर्माना लगाने और वहां 2.3 हेक्टर पर भूमि में सिटी फारेस्ट विकसित करने की संसुति की थी।

17 लाख रुपये कराए थे जमा

वन विभाग ने 13 अक्टूबर को आकाश मथुरा, आशीष माथुर, मनेज शर्मा, प्रेम सिद्ध बघेल, राजन सिंह यादव व अब्दुल सलाम के विरुद्ध पेड़ काटने का मुकदमा दर्ज कराया था। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्देश पर सीईसी की टीम ने छह दिनों के माथुर फार्म हाउस का निरीक्षण किया था। सीईसी द्वारा रिपोर्ट में प्रति पेड़ एक लाख रुपये जुर्माना लगाए जाने की संसुति की थी। 20 जनवरी को वन विभाग ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में एपीओविट दाखिल कर कहा था कि, फार्म हाउस स्वामी ने जुर्माने के 17 लाख रुपये जमा कर दिए हैं, लेकिन 340 पौधे रोपने को 0.3 हेक्टर पर भूमि उपलब्ध नहीं कराई है।

मथुरा में तय की थी एक किमी की सीमा

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मथुरा के डालमिया बाग के मामले में काटे गए पेड़ों के एक जे में लगाने जाने वाले 20 गुणा पौधों के लिए एक किमी की धरिधि में पौधारोपण करने को भूमि उपलब्ध कराने का आदेश दिया था। पर्यावरणीय संतुलन बनाए रखने को ऐस किया गया था।

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Why Agra has no place for Taj of sweets

Pollution fears have put padlocks on Noori Gate, the manufacturing nerve-centre of the petha since the Mughal period

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issue dated May 26, 2025)

The smell of syrup in the air, the hot petha rolling out of factories on both sides of the road, their candied memories travelling up and down the country in tiny coloured boxes by road, rail and now air—this is the identity of Agra’s Noori Gate area. About seven kilometres from the Taj Mahal, these desi ptisseries also churn out tiny, delicate monuments to the sweetness of composite culture. If the Taj was born in Shah Jahan’s mind, legend has it that the petha was born in his royal kitchen—upon a royal firman to create a sweet delicacy as pure and white as the Taj! Marble was traded for white pumpkin, Agra’s magic spell was spoken, and voila the world was suddenly sweeter.

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That magic spell is being broken. The Noori Gate petha manufactories, running unbroken since the Mughal period, have been ordered to shift out of the city. That also breaks other ties with history. In 1929, the revolutionary Bhagat Singh, after shooting down British police officer John Saunders (the Lahore Conspiracy Case that led to his hanging), spent a few days hiding in a two-storey house right here in Noori Gate area.

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Girish Singhal, 63, lives next to this house, beginning his petha-making career in his two-room abode in 1980. Over 40 years on, he's worried. "I do not have the resources to go 30 km away and set up business afresh. If there's too much pressure, I'll stop making petha and open a grocery shop but not move."

Takeaways

➤ **A Supreme Court ruling ends a long story, forcing petha-makers out of Agra**

➤ **Many are small family-run units, can't afford to shift to a new 'petha city' 30 km away**

Anoop Mittal, 50, another Noori Gate native, conjures up the Gilauri Patta, a special sweet made from petha. "I make petha on the ground floor of my two-storey house," he says. "It's a cottage industry for my family. If I shift out, I won't be able to bear the costs. I'll have to stop."

Noori Gate has over 500 small and big units related to petha production. Over

5,000 people work here, churning out some 1,000 quintals of petha daily. For about three decades, the locality has attracted the attention of disapproving government planners due to an ironic inversion of the petha's relation to the Taj: the fear that pollution caused by this sweet-making industry could be damaging the heritage monument.

On April 3, the Supreme Court ordered the evacuation of petha units from the city. It was hearing cases related to the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ), a designated 10,400 sq. km area around the Taj, established to protect it from pollution. After this, the Agra administration and the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) have started surveying these petha units.

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Pollution is indeed an issue. After the TTZ was set up in 1983, the use of coal in kilns was banned and petha units adopted gas-based technology. In 2013, the UPPCB imposed a complete ban on the entry of coal-laden trucks into Agra. But problems persisted. According to a 2021 study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), the city's petha industry generates about 17,800 kg of solid waste per day, mostly petha peels, sugar syrup and lime water. District officials say a campaign was launched in 2018 to educate petha producers about the importance of proper waste disposal, also granting aid to the big players to procure equipment for it. A large part of the industry, though, falls under the unorganised sector, beyond the pale of government benefits.

The traders deny petha pollution, and say the incriminating data is from a 25-year-old survey. Says Rajesh Agarwal, a leading voice from the organised part of the industry: "Now all the units run on gas furnaces. The peel was earlier identified as waste, but now they use it as animal feed. They should conduct a fresh survey."

Dr Devashish Bhattacharya, an ENT surgeon who's fighting a case in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) against petha pollution, is still sympathetic to their fate. "If all facilities were provided on time by the government, the petha makers would not have faced any problem," he says. Now, they face the gloomy prospect of shifting to the New Petha City in Kalindi Vihar, a 1999-vintage plan on which none of the traders were consulted.

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Agra's Petha industry faces crisis as Supreme Court orders closure of factories within Taj Trapezium Zone

The Supreme court's order has raised concerns among those involved in Agra's petha industry, which has been a cultural and economic mainstay of the people in the region for decades.

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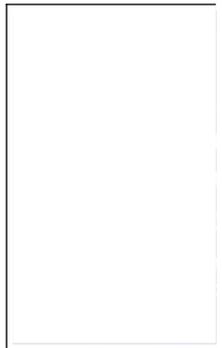
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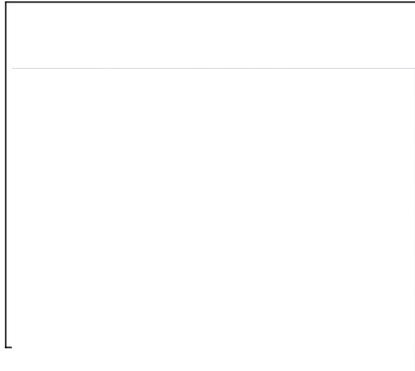


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The Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) is a 10,400-square-kilometer area around the Taj Mahal in Agra, to protect the monument and other heritage sites from pollution. Named for its trapezoid shape, it was established by the Supreme Court of India in 1996 to restrict polluting industries, mandate cleaner fuels like natural gas, and control industrial pollution. The Taj Trapezium Zone includes UNESCO World Heritage sites like the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, and Fatehpur Sikri.

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The court's order has raised concerns in Agra's petha industry, in the region for decades. Local traders say the industry, largely made up of small family-run units, faces an existential threat.

Rajesh Agarwal, a leading petha manufacturer, told Local18 that business owners deeply anxious and said: "Traders are worried and are in constant touch with the administration for help." Petha manufacturers argue that they have already adopted cleaner fuel sources, switching from coal to LPG in an effort to reduce emissions. They have appealed to the court for leniency, stressing that most confectioners are small-scale operators who depend entirely on this trade for their livelihoods.

This is not the first time the sector has faced restrictions. In 1996, the Supreme Court banned the use of coal in TTZ industries, including petha units. The clampdown was reinforced in 2013 when the court prohibited all forms of coal in factories.

Young entrepreneurs in the trade are particularly concerned about the fallout the court order will have on the legacy of the petha manufacturing. Shrey Agarwal, another businessman involved in petha trade, told Local18 that smaller players could be pushed out altogether. "Big businessmen may find ways to survive, but the poor will suffer the most. The Supreme Court should consider everyone's problems before taking a final decision," he pleaded.

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With the deadline looming, Agra's celebrated sweet faces an uncertain future, caught between environmental preservation and the survival of an industry that has defined the city's identity for generations.

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(Edited by : Jerome Anthony)

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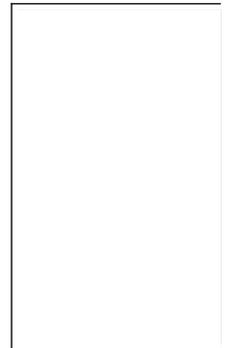
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