

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 295 of 2023

In the matter of

Dimpal Kumar

.....Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab & Ors.

.....Respondent

With

Original Application No. 1358/2024

(I.A. No.21/2025)

Archit Arora

Applicant

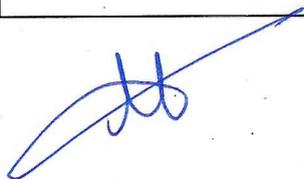
Versus

State of Punjab & Ors.

Respondent(s)

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Date: 31/08/2025  
Place: Chandigarh,

  
(Manish Kumar)  
Special Secretary to Government of  
Punjab, Department of Science,  
Technology and Environment  
(On behalf of the State of Punjab)

**Before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi**

Original Application No. 295 of 2023

Dimpal Kumar S/o Mohinder Pal Bhadal Tuha, Tehsil Amloh Fatehgarh Saheb

--Applicant

Versus

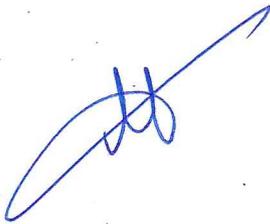
1. Govt of Punjab Through its Chief Secretary Sixth Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat Sector 1, Chandigarh -160001 E-mail: cs@punjab.gov.in (Respondent No.1)
2. Punjab Pollution Control Board Through its Chairman, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala-147001 E-mail: msppcb@gmail.com (Respondent No.2)
3. All India Steel Rollers Association, Through its President Sagar Apts., 6 Tilak Marg, New Delhi – 110001 Phone – 011 2338 9957 E-mail: aisra200@yahoo.com (Respondent No.3)
4. Project Director, National Highway Authority, 16, Prem Nagar, Ambala City – 134003 Phone – 9910140777 (Respondent No.4)
5. Executive Officer, Municipal Council Mandi Gobidgarh, District Administrative Complex, Fatehgarh Sahib – 140407 (Respondent No.5)
6. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Through its Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Lodhi Colony, New Delhi-110003 Email: secy-moef@nic.in (Respondent No.6)
- Central Pollution Control Board Through its Member Secretary Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032 Email: mscb.cpcb@nic.in (Respondent No.7)
8. RP Ceramics Village Chanalo, District Fatehgarh-140103, Punjab (Respondent No.8)
9. Unique Ceramics Village Harbanspura, District Fatehgarh Sahib-140103, Punjab (Respondent No.9)



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10. Steelage Refractories Pvt. Ltd. Talwara Road, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.10)
11. Samrat Ceramics Talwara Road, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.11)
12. Shiva Ceramics Village Jallalpur, Mandi, Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.12)
13. Jaisleen Ceramics Majri Misri Wali Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.13)
14. MB Ceramics Village Kumbh, Amloh Road, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.14)
15. Singhal Ceramics Village Kumbh, Amloh Road, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.15)
16. Mittal Refractories Village Kumbh, Amloh Road, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.16)
17. S.R. Ceramics & Enterprises G.T. Road, Sirhind Side, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.17)
18. Agni Refractory Pvt. Ltd. Village Ajnali, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.18)
19. Gupta Ceramics Sardar Nagar, RIMT University, Mandi Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.19)
20. Reyansh Ceramics Village Mullanpur, Mandi, Gobindgarh-147301, Punjab (Respondent No.20)

--Respondent



With



**Original Application No. 1358/2024**

(I.A. No.21/2025)

Archit Arora Son of Narinder Arora, House No.1, Bullepur Farms, Bullepur Road, Near Golden Grain, Khanna, Punjab-141401, Also at: 114, CB-202A, Naraina, Delhi-11002

--Applicant

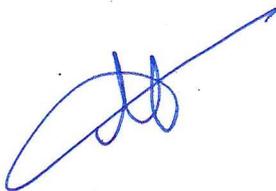
Versus

1. STATE OF PUNJAB Through its Chief Secretary, Sixth Floor, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Sector 1, Chandigarh-160001 Email: cs@punjab.gov.in
2. Punjab Pollution Control Board, Through its Chairman, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001, Email: chairmanppcb@yahoo.in, msppcb@gmail.com
3. All India Steel Re Rollers Association, Through its President Vinod Vashisht, 13, Sagar Apts., 6, Tilak Marg, New Delhi 110 001 011 2338 9957, 3530 2255, Email: aisra200@yahoo.com
4. Think Gas Ludhiana Private Limited, 3rd Floor, Dhanraj Complex, Near Gate No.2, Punjab Agricultural University Ludhiana-141001, Punjab Email: info@think-gas.com

.....Respondent

Reply/ Status report by way of affidavit of Manish Kumar, Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment in compliance of order dated 27.03.2025 and 22.07.2025 on behalf of the State of Punjab.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby, solemnly affirm and state as under:



**Respectfully Showeth:**

1. That the above-mentioned case relating to the grievance against unregulated violation of air quality norms by Coal fired furnaces operating in Mandi Gobindgarh area of the State of Punjab is under consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal. The Punjab Pollution Control Board is filing replies/ status reports in the case in compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble Tribunal issued from time to time. The Rolling Mills of the area of Mandi Gobindgarh have also been impleaded as party in the case before this Hon'ble Tribunal.
2. That the deponent is presently working as Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment and as such is well conversant with the facts of the case. The deponent is competent and authorized to swear and file the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of the Government of Punjab.
3. That the case came up for hearing on 22.07.2025 when this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue directions for the virtual appearance of the Chief Secretary, State of Punjab on the next date of hearing to assist this Hon'ble Tribunal. The relevant extract of paragraph 2 of the order dated 22.07.2025 is reproduced herein below for kind perusal and reference.

*"2. Thereafter, the OA has come up today in about three months but no response as per the statement made by*

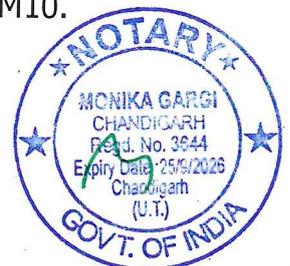


*the learned Advocate General on 27.03.2025 has been filed till now. The Tribunal had trusted the learned Advocate General and had adjourned the matter on the previous date. Today neither the learned Advocate General for the State of Punjab is present nor the order passed on 27.03.2025 on the basis of the statement of the learned Advocate General has been complied with. In such circumstances, we have no option but to direct the Chief Secretary, State of Punjab to appear virtually and assist the Tribunal on the next date of hearing."*

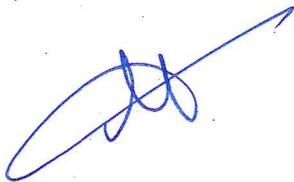
4. That respectfully it is submitted that the State of Punjab was given time to file comprehensive report in the above-mentioned case vide order dated 27.03.2025 but due to some procedural delay the reply could not be filed in time before this Hon'ble Tribunal on behalf of the State of Punjab. The State of Punjab and its officers have the highest regard for the orders and directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal and cannot even think about its disobedience in any manner. The inconvenience caused to this Hon'ble Tribunal is deeply regretted. The State of Punjab tenders an un-conditional apology in this regard before this Hon'ble Tribunal. It is assured that due attention will be paid to such important matters in future.



5. That the present reply/ status report is being filed by the deponent in compliance to order dated 27.03.2025 and 22.07.2025 on behalf of the State of Punjab.
6. That the Government has gathered the facts and data of the case from the Department of Industries and the Punjab Pollution Control Board. In order to understand the legal matrix involved in the case, it would be appropriate to mention the brief background of the case. The reply/ status report on behalf of the State of Punjab may kindly be read in the following paragraphs.
7. That briefly stated the Central Pollution Control Board in compliance to order dated 08.10.2018 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 21 of 2014 titled as Vardhman Kaushik v/s Union of India and Others had identified 102 cities across the country in the year 2018 as non-attainment cities on the basis of Ambient Air Quality Data from 2011-2015 for not meeting with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
8. That nine cities of Punjab namely DeraBassi, Nangal, Patiala, Mandi Gobindgarh, Khanna, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Pathankot and Amritsar have been declared non-attainment cities by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of Ambient air quality data for the period of 2011-2015 for not meeting the annual average of 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for PM<sub>10</sub>.



9. That it is pertinent to mention here that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken cognizance of the National Clean Air Program in OA No. 681 of 2018 titled as "NCAP with Multiple Timelines to Clear Air in 102 Cities to be released around August 15". The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to issue directions in the said case for the preparation of action plans for non-attainment cities aimed at bringing the standards of ambient air quality within the prescribed norms within six months from the date of finalization of action plans.
10. That accordingly, the Action Plan for Clean Air Mandi Gobindgarh was formulated in the year 2019 which include the components like identification of source and its apportionment considering sectors like vehicular pollution, industrial pollution, dust pollution, construction activities, garbage burning, agricultural pollution including pollution caused by burning of crop residue, residential and indoor pollution etc.
11. That due to paucity of time, detailed studies regarding source apportionment and carrying capacity could not be carried out in the year 2019. However, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has made some projections based on its inhouse deliberations for Mandi Gobindgarh. The estimated contribution of various sources in the air pollution of Mandi Gobindgarh was mentioned in the said action plan as under:



1	Industrial Emissions	50%
2	Road Dust	25%
3	Vehicular Pollution	15%
4	Burning of Garbage and Biomass	5%
5	Construction and Demolition Activities	4%
6	Other Sources	1%

The industrial pollution and vehicular pollution among various sources of air pollution was mentioned @ 50 % & 15 % respectively.

12. That the said Action Plan included the mandate for conversion of the industries of Mandi Gobindgarh from coal to CNG/PNG with a direction to Punjab Pollution Control Board to motivate the industry to convert from Coal to CNG and the State government to reduce VAT to make it viable alternative. The timeline for conversion of rolling mills from coal to PNG as mentioned in the Action Plan was 31.03.2021 which was extended upto 31.12.2023 due to certain impulsions.

13. That it is pertinent to mention here that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken cognizance of a matter in OA No.924 of 2019 (Neeraj Goyal Vs State of Punjab) for remedial action against illegal polluting activities by motor scraping units in Mandi Gobindgarh and considered the matter in light of a report dated 27.01.2020 furnished by the Joint



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Committee comprising of the Central Pollution Control Board; the State Pollution Control Board and Municipal Council, Mandi Gobindgarh. After consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has passed order dated 01.10.2020 & 06.04.2021 in OA no. 924 of 2019 (Neeraj Goyal Vs State of Punjab) thereby issuing directions to shift the rolling mills and other industries in Mandi Gobindgarh from coal to PNG and the State PCB was directed to ensure compliance of such shifting and if such shifting does not take place, the non-compliant units shall be closed till compliance. The relevant extract of order dated 01.10.2020 is reproduced below:

*"It is clear from the above that there are serious violation of environmental norms and inadequate monitoring by the statutory authorities. Remedial action taken even after intervention of this Tribunal is hardly adequate. Further serious steps are required to be taken for upholding the rule of law and protection of environment and public health. Let further meaningful action be taken and a compliance report filed before the next date. In the context of directions to shift rolling mills from coal to PNG, we direct the State PCB to ensure that if such shifting does not take place, the non-compliant units be*



*closed till compliance. This should apply not only to rolling mills but also to other similarly placed industries operating on coal. Wherever there is noncompliance, the State PCB may take coercive measures, including closure, recovery of compensations and initiating prosecution, following due process of law."*

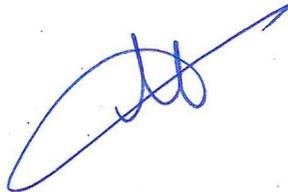
14. That it is further submitted that the Punjab Pollution Control Board got carried out the Particulate Matter carrying capacity of Nine Non-Attainment cities in Punjab as well as the Source Apportionment Study from IIT Delhi which was submitted by the IIT Delhi in September 2021 and September 2023 respectively. The Source Apportionment Study of Particulate Matter in Mandi Gobindgarh concluded that the contribution of vehicular emission is 35 % and Industrial emission is 26 %.
15. That in compliance to the orders dated 01.10.2020 and 06.04.2021 the Punjab Pollution Control Board started taking action for closure of the industrial units of Mandi Gobindgarh which have not shifted from coal to PNG till 31.12.2022. The industrial units of Mandi Gobindgarh have given a representation for extension in time to shift the units from coal to PNG due to rise in the prices of PNG. The Government had considered the request of the industrial association and decided that the Board may



*[Handwritten signature]*

consider the request for extension in the validity of consent to operate till finalization of State Fuel Policy or 31.12.2023 which is ever earlier.

16. That it is pertinent to mention here that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had considered the matter relating to the use of pet coke and furnace oil and issued certain directions for compliance, whereupon the Central Pollution Control Board vide letter dated 23.08.2019 has issued directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all the States and Union Territories including the State of Punjab for formulating and enforcing fuel policy regarding use of pet coke and furnace oil in the States / UTs in light of various orders passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding use of pet coke and furnace oil in Writ Petition (Civil) no. 13029 of 1985.
17. That the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment has notified the Fuel Policy for the State of Punjab vide notification no. 10/64/2020-STE4/469 dated 04.10.2023. A copy of notification no. 10/64/2020-STE4/469 dated 04.10.2023 vide which Fuel Policy was notified is enclosed as **Annexure PB/A**. With the notification of the fuel policy, the temporary relief extended to the industries for the usage of coal had become infructuous. The Industrial Associations of Rolling Mills operating in the area of Mandi Gobindgarh were requested



vide letter no. 347 dated 05.10.2023 by the Punjab Pollution Control Board to use cleaner fuels in their industrial units.

18. That in the meantime, one Dimpal Kumar has filed an Original Application No. 295 of 2023 (Dimpal Kumar v/s State of Punjab and Others) before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, which was related to the grievance against un-regulated violation of air quality norms by coal fired furnaces operating in Mandi Gobindgarh area of the State of Punjab. The case was listed for hearing before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 27.03.2025 wherein, it was directed that the State Government and Punjab Pollution Control Board shall file the status report within four weeks. The operative part of the order is reproduced below:

3. Issue has been flagged that though the State of Punjab has framed the fuel policy dated 04.10.2023 but same has not been given effect to so far as the project proponents in Mandi Gobindgarh are concerned.

4. Learned Advocate General, State of Punjab submits that government will duly look into this issue and will file comprehensive response within four weeks.

7. Punjab PCB is also directed to file status report within four weeks.



A copy of order dated 27.03.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal is enclosed as **Annexure PB/B**.

19. That it is pertinent to mention here that the All-India Steel Rerollers Association (AISRA) has given a representation dated 03.07.2025 to the Government of Punjab for making amendment in the Action Plan for Clean Air, Mandi Gobindgarh (2019) based on IIT Delhi Source Apportionment Study (2023) as well as amendment in the State Fuel Policy. The Association has mentioned that the 2019 Action Plan was formulated on the assumption that the industry's contribution to air pollution was 50%, while road dust and vehicular emissions were considered to contribute 35%. It is further mentioned in the representation that consequently, several stringent regulatory measures were imposed predominantly on the industrial sector. However, the IIT Delhi Source Apportionment Study of 2023, conducted specifically for Mandi Gobindgarh – Punjab's largest steel manufacturing hub – presents a revised, evidence-backed scenario that significantly changes the understanding of pollution sources in the city. A copy of the representation dated 03.07.2025 of All-India Steel Rerollers Association (AISRA) is enclosed as **Annexure PB/C**.

20. That from the facts of the case, it emerged that the Action Plan of Mandi Gobindgarh and other cities was formulated based on the assumptions



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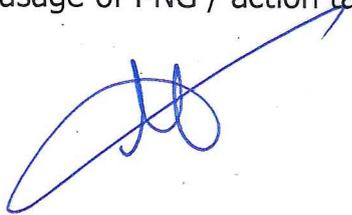
and projections made by the Punjab Pollution Control Board in the year 2019. Thereafter, in the recent years, several industries have installed Air Pollution Control Devices in their units. It is pertinent to mention here that all the industries to whom directions have been issued by the Punjab Pollution Control Board u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have installed wet scrubber as Air Pollution Control Device in the premises of the industrial units. Many changes influenced by social, economic and environmental factors have occurred. The Source Apportionment Study of Mandi Gobindgarh conducted and submitted by the IIT, Delhi in the year 2023 to the Board contains limitations. It was observed that it would be appropriate, if a fresh source apportionment study of Mandi Gobindgarh and other non-attainment cities across the State of the Punjab is conducted by some institute of repute after taking into account all the changes that have occurred during the passage of time and after comprehensively considering all the relevant aspects that are inter related to the cause of air pollution. Hence, a fresh source apportionment study of Mandi Gobindgarh is required to be carried out before proceeding further and so as to amend the Action Plan of Clean Air Mandi Gobindgarh.

21. That it is relevant to mention here that the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is a statutory body constituted under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act 2006. PNGRB



authorizes/grants licenses to City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks, Natural Gas & Petroleum Product pipelines, determines transportation tariffs and lays down the technical & safety standards etc. The PNGRB has authorized 16 Geographical Areas (GAs) to ten City Gas Distribution entities covering the entire state for development of CGD network. The prices of Piped natural gas or CNG charged by these entities from industrial and commercial units are also controlled by the PNGRB. These entities have been allowed exclusivity period of upto 300 months for laying, building and expansion of CGD network. The charges of PNG levied by these entities act as a predator for industrial units and act as a deterrence to shifting to PNG.

22. That the Punjab Pollution Control Board has filed an affidavit dated 21.07.2025 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in OA No. 295 of 2023 praying for allowing the Punjab Pollution Control Board to get fresh Source Apportionment Study as well as carrying capacity of Mandi Gobindgarh conducted from some Institute of Repute before proceeding further in the case.
23. That the present status of the industries of Mandi Gobindgarh in respect of usage of PNG / action taken as on 28.08.2025 is given below:



Sr. No.	Status of the Industries and Action taken by the Board	Number of Industries
1.	Total number of industries including rolling mills, forging units, annealing units, casting and annealing unit, galvanizing units and other industries required to use cleaner fuel / PNG	258
2.	Industries using PNG/ LPG	113
3.	Industries closed permanently	34
4.	Action taken for disconnection of electricity supply	96
5.	Pollution causing machinery sealed	1
6.	Industry converted to Induction using electricity as fuel	3
7.	Action under process for closure	4
8.	Outside of Mandi Gobindgarh	7 (PNG 6 no.) (Never Used PNG 1 no.)

24. That the Government of Punjab is seized of the matter and wants to resolve the issue relating to air pollution in Mandi Gobindgarh area. Considering all the facts and circumstances of the case, the Government of Punjab has constituted a Cabinet Sub- Committee to oversee and implement the comprehensive solutions regarding the issue of Air Pollution by Coal Fired Furnaces based Industries operating in Mandi Gobindgarh and Khanna area of Punjab. The committee will comprise the following:




1.	Shri Sanjiv Arora	Hon'ble Minister, Industries & Commerce, Punjab	Chairperson
2.	Shri Lal Chand Kataruchak	Hon'ble Minister, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab	Member
3.	Shri Ravjot Singh	Hon'ble Minister, Local Government, Punjab	Member

The Cabinet Sub-Committee would be assisted by Administrative Secretaries of concerned departments and Chairperson, Punjab Pollution Control Board. The Committee shall meet at least once every month or as often as needed. The Committee is empowered to co-opt domain experts and invite relevant technical institutions as required. All departments shall extend full cooperation in the implementation of decisions taken by the Committee.

25. That the High-Level Committee will act with the following mandate

- i. Develop a framework for revision of Action Plan for Clean Air in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab.
- ii. Make recommendations regarding policy interventions to address the issue.
- iii. Examine and make recommendations regarding the necessity of any fresh study by Institute of Repute regarding this matter.
- iv. To engage with regulatory agencies of Central Government and State Government as necessary,



*[Handwritten Signature]*

to ensure alignment between regulations / directives and on ground status.

- v. Any other task as may be assigned by Hon'ble Chief Minister from time to time.

26. That a copy of the notification bearing no. 7/18/2025-3CAB/5263 dated 30.08.2025 issued by the Government of Punjab, Department of General Administration for constitution of the Cabinet Sub Committee is enclosed herewith as **Annexure PB/D**.
27. That the Respondent has the utmost respect for the orders of this Hon'ble tribunal and therefore immediately after the formation of the cabinet sub-committee vide notification dated 30.08.2025, a meeting of the sub-committee was held on 31.08.2025 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Commerce, Punjab, wherein, the issue relating to air pollution in Mandi Gobindgarh area of Punjab was deliberated in light of the orders passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal with special reference to the steps necessary to be undertaken to implement the directions of this Hon'ble tribunal as well as the objective of the Fuel Policy, 2023.
28. The meeting was attended by the Hon'ble Chairperson, the member Ministers, Chief Secretary, the Addl. Advocate General, Secretaries / Directors of the concerned departments, Chairperson PPCB.



concerned departments have been directed to assimilate and present the relevant data and information within a period of 2 weeks i.e. by the 15th of September 2025 to the sub-committee for effective implementation of its mandate in order to reach and formulate a comprehensive solution which is in compliance of the directions of this Hon'ble tribunal and the objective behind the Fuel Policy,2023. The sub-committee considers the issue at hand as a top priority and will make every endeavor to formulate a comprehensive solution to the issue of air pollution, keeping in mind all aspects, within a period of 4-6 weeks so that it may be placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal. The meeting concluded with a decision for holding the next meeting in two (2) weeks tentatively on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.

29. That the deponent may kindly be allowed to place on record the present reply / status report in compliance to order dated 27.03.2025 and 22.07.2025 for kind consideration and appropriate orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal.

  
Deponent

(Manish Kumar)

Special Secretary to Government of  
Punjab, Department of Science,  
Technology and Environment

(On behalf of the State of Punjab)

Special Secretary,  
Department of Science, Technology  
and Environment, Govt. of Punjab

Date: 31/08/2025

Place: Chandigarh



**VERIFICATION:**

Verified that the contents of Para No. 1 to 27 of the above reply/ status and action taken report by way of affidavit of the deponent are true and correct as derived from the official record. Para no. 28 is prayer. No part of the above reply/ status and action taken report is false and no material has been concealed therein.

**Deponent**

**(Manish Kumar)**

Date: 31/08/25  
Place: Chandigarh

**Special Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment**

**(On behalf of the State of Punjab)**

**Special Secretary,  
Department of Science, Technology  
and Environment, Govt. of Punjab**

Attested & Identified

MONIKA GARGI  
Notary, Chandigarh (U.T.)



31 AUG 2025

The contents of this Affidavit/Document has been read and explained to the deponent/affiants. He/She/It understands the contents and is correct. The contents are true and correct as per Register

at Sr. No. 1532 24 on 31/08/25

Vertical text on the left margin: 'Attested & Identified by Notary Public, Chandigarh (U.T.)' with a signature.



**Government of Punjab  
Department of Science, Technology & Environment  
(STE Branch)**

**NOTIFICATION**

No. 10/64/2020-STE4/469

Dated, Chandigarh: 04/10/2023

**FUEL POLICY FOR THE INDUSTRIES OF STATE OF PUNJAB**

In order to address the problem of air pollution in the State of Punjab in accordance with the provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Govt. of Punjab in consultation with Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has declared whole of the State of Punjab as 'Air Pollution Control Area' under section 19(1) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide Notification No. SO21/C.A.14/81/S.19/88 dated 02.03.1988;

And whereas, the Govt. of Punjab, vide Notification No.4/46/92-3ST/2839 dated 29.12.1993 has banned the use and burning of rubber scrap, tyre, oil sludge, acid sludge and loose rice husk as fuel, in the State of Punjab, as detailed below:

- 4
- (I) Rubber in any form with effect from 1.4.1994;
  - (II) Process waste containing Sulphur and toxic substances with effect from 1.4.1994;
  - (III) Rice Husk (except in the form of fuel briquettes and use of rice husk in fluidized bed combustion) as fuel in the air pollution control area with effect from 1.4.1994.

And whereas, the Govt. of Punjab & Punjab Pollution Control Board, from time to time, are taking all such measures which are required for the reduction and control of air pollution in the State of Punjab including the regulation and use of such fuels which may or may have an adverse impact on the quality of environment in the State;

And whereas, the usage of coal, pet coke, furnace oil and other fuels in the boilers/ furnaces or in any other form by the industry, needs to be regulated due to presence of higher sulphur content leading to Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in the ambient air, which may adversely affect the environment;

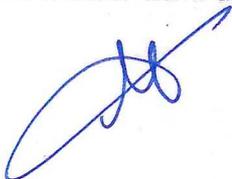
And whereas, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal had also considered the matter relating to the use of pet coke and furnace oil and issued certain directions for compliance, whereupon the Central Pollution Control Board vide letter dated 23.8.2019 had issued directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to all the States and Union Territories including the State of Punjab for formulating and enforcing fuel policy regarding use of pet coke and furnace oil in the States/ UTs in light of various orders passed by Supreme Court regarding use of Pet Coke and Furnace Oil in Writ Petition (C) no. 13029/1985;

And whereas, according to the provisions of the Section 19(3) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, if the State Government after consultation with the State Pollution Control Board, is of the opinion that the use of any fuel, other than an approved fuel, in any air pollution control area or part thereof, may cause or is likely to cause air pollution, it may, by notification in the Official Gazette, prohibit the use of such fuel in such area or part thereof with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification;

And whereas, the State Government has considered the matter in the above background of the case in consultation with the Punjab Pollution Control Board and other stakeholder departments and is satisfied that the use of pet coke, furnace oil and other fuels is required to be regulated, so as to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the environment;

And whereas, the draft of Policy to prohibit the furnace oil and to regulate the use of pet coke and other fuels was considered at the highest level of the Government, wherein, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab has desired that final draft be put up after obtaining comments of all the stakeholders, concerned Departments/Agencies as well as general public;

And whereas, meetings/discussions were held with primary stakeholders (various Industrial Associations, Brick Kiln Associations, Thermal Plants operating in the State, M/s Guru Gobind Singh Refinery (Unit of HPCL Mittal Energy Ltd.), Talwandi Sabo Bathinda, Briquettes manufacturers, Brick kilns owners using briquettes & Boiler manufacturers for conversion of furnaces compatible for usage of alternative fuels). The suggestions/ inputs in the matter were also sought from the stakeholder departments/



reputed institutes (Department of Industries & Commerce/ Transport/Agriculture/Food Supplies & Consumer Affairs/Power/New and Renewable Energy Resources/PSIEC/ DECC/ PSCST/State Level Co-ordinator, IOCL/ Custom Commissioner-ate Amritsar/ Ludhiana, IIT Roorkee/Ropar/Delhi/TIET/CSIR-IIP & CPCB);

And whereas, after considering the suggestions/inputs of various stakeholders, the draft fuel Policy to prohibit the furnace oil and to regulate the use of Pet Coke and other fuels in the State was published by the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology & Environment vide Notification No. STE-STE-010/64/2020-STE (5/4) 455004 dated the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2022, thereby inviting objections or suggestions on the proposal contained in the draft notification from all the stakeholders and persons likely to be affected thereby, within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of the said notification;

And whereas, the objections or comments received from various stakeholders including Industrial Associations/Individual Industries/CNG/PNG Supplier Companies and Government Departments within the stipulated period, were duly considered and amended policy by incorporating the suggestions/objections/ comments received was put and displayed on the website of the Punjab Pollution Control Board for inviting objections or suggestions, within a period of 15 days. A public notice was also published in leading newspapers/vernacular dailies on 15.07.2023 in this regard;

And whereas, the additional objections or comments received within the stipulated period were duly considered by the State Government;

Now, the Government of Punjab after consultation with the Punjab Pollution Control Board, in exercise of the powers conferred under section 19(3) of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, hereby, issue the following fuel policy and guidelines for the prohibition of furnace oil, regulation of the use of pet coke and for promoting the cleaner fuels in the State of Punjab:

**Guidelines for regulation and monitoring of Imported Pet Coke (IPC)**

- (i) The guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change vide office memorandum No. Q-18011/54/2018-CPA dated 10.09.2018 for regulation and monitoring of imported pet coke in India in compliance to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 in the matter of M.C Mehta v/s Union of India and Others and in the exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 shall be applicable.

- (II) The import of pet coke for use as fuel is prohibited.
- (III) The import of pet coke is allowed to be used by the industries namely cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide and gasification for use as feedstock or in the manufacturing process only on actual user basis as per the conditions stipulated below:
- a) Pet coke importing industries namely, cement, lime kiln, calcium carbide and gasification shall obtain the consent and registration from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).
  - b) Consent issued by the State Pollution Control Board shall clearly specify the quantity permitted for import and its use on a per month and per annum basis.
  - c) Only registered industrial units with valid consent from State Pollution Control Board as per clause (a) shall be permitted to directly import pet coke and consignment shall be in the name of user industrial units for their own use only.
  - d) Import of pet coke for the purpose of trading shall not be permitted.
  - e) Authorized importers of Pet coke shall furnish opening and closing stock of imported pet coke to the State Pollution Control Board on quarterly basis.
  - f) The State Pollution Control Board shall develop an electronic record system for uploading of consents, registration and record of use of imported Pet coke by industrial units, as mentioned above and the Board shall share this data with the Central Pollution Control Board on quarterly basis.
- (IV) The Supreme Court of India has further allowed the use of pet coke vide various orders passed in Writ Petition (Civil) no. 13029 of 1985 as under:
- a) Import of needle pet coke is allowed for use in graphite electrode industry (order dated 6.9.2018);
  - b) Calcined Pet Coke (CPC) domestic as well as imported can be used as raw material for anode making in aluminum industry with revised BIS specifications and subject to condition that imported raw material cannot exceed 0.5 MT per annum in total (order dated 9.10.2018);
  - c) Raw Pet Coke (domestic and imported) can be used as feed stock for producing Calcined Pet Coke (CPC) and the quantity for this purpose cannot exceed 1.4 MT/annum in total (order dated 9.10.2018);
- (V) Anyone using pet coke in consequence to the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court given in point (IV) above shall comply with all conditions laid by Hon'ble Supreme Court for using such pet coke as well as notified by the PPCB from time to time.

#### **Guidelines for use of Pet Coke for Boilers/ Furnaces**

- (I) The industry shall provide well designed two stages desulphurization i.e. at combustion stage and of flue gas emissions and install adequate air pollution control device so as to contain the Particulate Matter (PM) and gaseous emissions specifically Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) as per the limits mentioned below:
- a) Particulate Matter (PM): as prescribed by the MoEF&CC depending upon the source (Boiler or type of industry)
  - b) Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>): 400 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> Wherever, any industry specific standards are prescribed by the MoEF&CC/CPCB/State Govt./PPCB same shall prevail.

- c) Mitigation measures to contain SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, particulate matter and other parameters shall remain applicable for Thermal Plants and other industries for which industry specific standards/guidelines have been laid down by the MoEF&CC/Central Government.
- (II) The industry shall install online monitor for SO<sub>2</sub> with the stack equipped with an alarm system to alert the boiler/APCD operator, in case, the concentration of SO<sub>2</sub> increases beyond the prescribed standard of 400 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> so as to take necessary mitigation measures to bring the SO<sub>2</sub> emission within the prescribed limits.
- (III) The industry shall provide a stack of height calculated by using the formula  $H=14Q^{0.3}$ , where Q is the emission rate of SO<sub>2</sub> in kg/hr and should be calculated by using the volume of flue gas emissions and the standards for SO<sub>2</sub> (400 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>) or 30 meter, whichever is higher.
- (IV) The industry shall provide adequate and appropriate treatment to the bleed off/purge wastewater being discharged from the scrubber. The sludge produced in the recirculation tank of the scrubbing liquor shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner.
- (V) The industry shall follow the standard operating practices prescribed by MoEF&CC/CPCB/PPCB issued from time to time to contain SO<sub>2</sub>, particulate matter and other parameters within the prescribed limit.

#### Prohibition on the use of Furnace Oil and alternate fuels

- (I) Furnace oil and any other liquid oil containing high Sulphur contents (exceeding 1.8% by weight) shall not be allowed to be used as fuel.
- (II) Only specified liquid fuels marketed and supplied by the oil companies authorized by the Government of India, including Low Sulphur Heavy Stock (LSHS), Light Diesel Oil (LDO) and Propane, Butane etc. having sulphur content not exceeding 1.8% by weight shall be allowed.
- (III) No oil company shall supply furnace oil and any liquid fuel having high sulphur content in the State except the liquid fuels/ oil allowed at Sr. No. (II) above.
- (IV) The industry shall provide a stack of adequate height calculated by using the formula  $H=14Q^{0.3}$ , where Q is the emission rate of SO<sub>2</sub> in kg/hr. Where providing all stacks are not feasible using above formula, a minimum stack height of 11 meters is to be provided considering the emission standards for SO<sub>2</sub> as 400 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>.
- (V) The industry shall follow the standard operating practices prescribed by MoEF&CC/CPCB/PPCB issued from time to time and provide appropriate and adequate emission control/treatment systems so as to contain SO<sub>2</sub>, particulate matter and other parameters within the prescribed limit.
- (VI) Carbon Black Feed Stock (CBFS) or its sub types including acetylene black, channel black, furnace black, lamp black and thermal black etc. shall not be used as fuel in boilers, furnaces, brick kilns or anywhere as a source of energy generation.

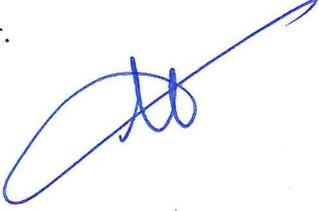
#### Cleaner and Eco-Friendly Fuels

- (I) State Government/PPCB in its endeavor to save natural resources shall take appropriate steps for replacement of its conventional natural energy resources like coal, wood etc. in phased manner with cleaner fuels (CNG/PNG/LPG/CBG/

- electricity/solar/wind etc.), biomass fuels and fuels having low sulphur content in industrial units as well as in brick kilns, wherever possible.
- (II) Upon the availability of supply of CNG / PNG / CBG etc. in various geographical areas of the state by the respective licensees authorized by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the State Government in consultation with the State Pollution Control Board shall issue appropriate directions and timelines to the industries and other stakeholders for conversion to such cleaner fuels considering techno-economic and legal feasibility.
- (III) Use of bio-mass specifically paddy stubble in raw form, torrefied form, briquettes, palettes, or any other modified form including blending with other acceptable fuels shall be encouraged for their use as fuel for boilers/ furnaces in controlled/regulated conditions as approved by the State Pollution Control Board on case to case basis.
- (IV) Renewable energy sources like solar/ wind energy etc. shall be incentivized, wherever possible by the concerned departments.
- (V) Provisions of notification issued by the Department of Science, Technology & Environment vide notification no. 10/512/2021-STE(3)/2075 dated 27.8.2021 as amended and subsequent notifications issued by various departments of the Government of Punjab with regard to the encouragement of the usage of paddy straw as fuel shall be applicable.
- (VI) All industrial units using solid fuel and located within one hundred km from a solid waste based Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) plant shall make arrangements to replace at least five percent of their fuel requirement by RDF so produced (torrefied, non-torrefied, fuel briquettes, pellets or loose form as per feasibility), as prescribed under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016.
- (VII) Due to dynamics of cost and availability of fuels based on international markets, State Government in consultation with PPCB shall be empowered to permit usage of alternative fuels for a limited period based on techno-economic feasibility as per the prevailing scenario to ensure the sustainability of industrial sector in the State.

§

And whereas, this Fuel Policy of the State shall be subject to the compliance of further orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP(C) no. 13029 of 1985, judgements and orders passed by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal or any other judicial/ quasi-judicial authority from time to time, office memorandums, guidelines and notifications issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEF&CC), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), State Government or Punjab Pollution Control Board including those issued under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and under the action plans prepared by the State/Central Government for the clean air.



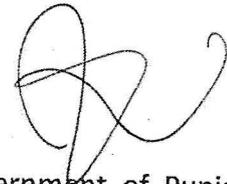
Needless to say that any order already passed or to be passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Hon'ble High Court or Hon'ble National Green Tribunal shall supersede any provision of this policy, if such provision is not in consonance with such order.

In case of failure to comply with the provisions of this notification, action in accordance with the provisions laid down under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under other relevant environmental laws shall be taken against the violators.

That provisions of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 shall be applicable on this policy.

Dated..04.10.2023

Chandigarh

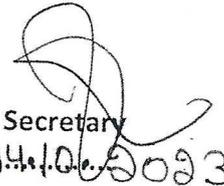


Secretary to Government of Punjab,  
Department of Science, Technology & Environment

Endst.No.10/64/2020-STE4/470

Dated..04.10.2023

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Special Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Punjab for information.



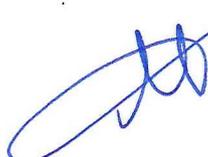
Secretary

Dated..04.10.2023

Endst.No.10/64/2020-STE4/471-480

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

1. The Chief Secretary, Punjab.
2. The Special Chief Secretary Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh.
3. The Principal Secretary, Department of Power, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh.
4. The Principal Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
5. The Principal Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
6. The Secretary, Department of New and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
7. The Secretary, Department of Transport; Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.
8. The Chairman, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala.
9. The Chief Executive Officer, Punjab Bureau of Investment Promotion, Chandigarh.
10. The Director, Directorate of Environment & Climate Change, Punjab.



Secretary

Endst.No. 10/64/2020-STE4/481

Dated..04..10..2023

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Controller, Department of Printing & Stationary, Punjab to print the 100 copies of this notification.

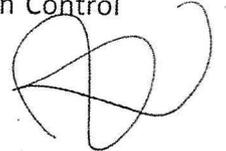


Secretary

Dated..04..10..2023

Endst.No. 10/64/2020-STE4/482

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

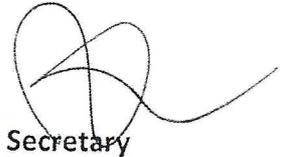


Secretary

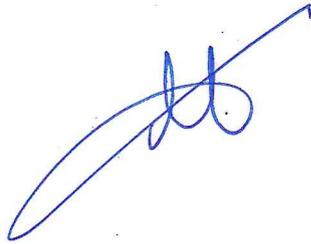
Dated..04..10..2023

Endst.No. 10/64/2020-STE4/483

A copy of the above is forwarded to all the Deputy Commissioners of the State of Punjab for information and necessary action.



Secretary



Item Nos. 11 &amp; 12

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 295/2023  
(I.A. Nos.218/2025 & 42/2025)

Dimpal Kumar

Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab &amp; Ors.

Respondent(s)

With

Original Application No. 1358/2024  
(I.A. No.21/2025)

Archit Arora

Applicant

Versus

State of Punjab &amp; Ors.

Respondent(s)

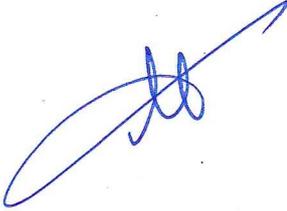
Date of hearing: 27.03.2025

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

Applicant: Mr. Raj Panjwani, Senior Advocate with Mr. I.K. Kapila, Adv. for Applicant in OA 295/2023  
Mr. Raghenth Basant, Senior Advocate with Ms. Pallavi Pratap, Adv. in OA 1358/2024 (Through VC)

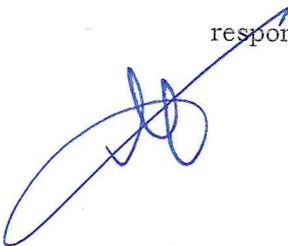
Respondent: Mr. Gurminder Singh, AG (Through VC) with Ms. Baani Khanna, Mr. Robin Singh & Mr. Kapil Balwani, Advs. for the State of Punjab  
Mr. A.D.N. Rao, Senior Advocate with Mr. Rahul Mishra, Mr. Rahul Gupta & Ms. Deepti Gupta, Advs. for R - 8 to 20 in OA 295/2023  
Ms. Suhasini Sen & Ms. Masooma Rizvi, Advs. for MoEF & CC in OA 295/2023  
Mr. A.R. Takkar, Ms. Aastha Tyagi & Mr. Manan Takkar, Advs. for R - 3 in OA 295/2023  
Mr. Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Adv. for R - 3 in OA 295/2023 (Through VC)  
Ms. Madhu Sweta & Mr. Yash Kapoor, Advs. for R - 4 (NHAI) in OA 295/2023  
Mr. Anuj Bhandari, Adv. for CPCB in OA 295/2023  
Mr. Prashant Manchanda, Adv. for R - 5 in OA 295/2023  
Mr. Manu Aggarwal & Ms. Ishita Pandey, Advs. for R - 4 in OA 1358/2024

**ORDER**



**Original Application No. 295/2023:-**

1. In this original application, Tribunal is considering the grievance of the applicant that coal fired furnaces operating in Mandi Gobind Garh, Punjab are violating the norms and contributing to the air pollution.
2. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the applicant submits that in terms of the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and order of the NGT, fuel policy for the industries in the State of Punjab dated 04.10.2023 (page 398) has been framed which in clear terms prohibit the use of furnace oil and other alternate fuels. He submits that in terms of the said policy, units using coal, pet coke and furnace oil are required to switch over to the greener fuels. In support of his submission, he has also referred to the directions issued by Central Pollution Control Board under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding preparation of policy on use of pet coke and furnace oil. Said directions are as under:
  - “1. State Government / Union Territory Administration shall formulate and enforce fuel policy regarding use of pet coke and FO in the State/UT in light of various orders passed by Supreme Court regarding use of pet coke and FO in Writ Petition (C) 13029/1985.*
  - 2. State Government / Union Territory Administration through respective SPCB/PCC shall take strict action against any industry if found violating the fuel policy on use of pet coke and FO that will be enforced as above, using the powers conferred under environmental laws.”*
3. Issue has been flagged that though the State of Punjab has framed the fuel policy dated 04.10.2023 but same has not been given effect to so far as the project proponents in Mandi Gobindgarh are concerned.
4. Learned Advocate General, State of Punjab submits that government will duly look into this issue and will file comprehensive response within four weeks.



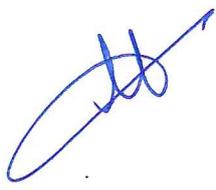
5. Learned Counsel for CPCB also submits that response on implementation of the directions issued under Section 5 of the EP Act, 1986 will be filed within four weeks.
6. No Counsel is present on behalf of Punjab PCB. It is unfortunate that in such an important matter, Punjab PCB is not represented through a Counsel, hence, we are unable to get the effective assistance in the matter, therefore, we direct the Chairman, Punjab, PCB to appear virtually on the next date of hearing and assist the Tribunal.
7. Punjab PCB is also directed to file status report within four weeks.
8. List on 22.07.2025.

**Original Application No. 1358/2024:-**

1. Learned Senior Counsel for the applicant referring to the Clause 1.3.1 of Action Plan for Clean Air, Khanna, annexure-3, page 196 has submitted that Khanna City has similar problem in the same circumstances, therefore, whatever is applicable to Mandi Gobindgarh should be applied to Khanna also. Clause 1.3.1 of the action plan reads as under:

*"1.3.1 Punjab Pollution Control Board had taken this as a challenge and also as an opportunity in order to achieve significant improvement in environmental quality and pave the way for sustainable development in the area. As Khanna is sister city of Mandi Gobindgarh, similar industries are established in these twin cities. Therefore, Khanna faces the similar challenges as Mandi Gobindgarh. The efforts being made by the Government in Mandi Gobindgarh are being replicated in Khanna city."*

2. Tribunal considering the circumstances of the case by order dated 11.12.2024 had issued notice to the respondents.



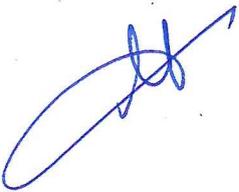
3. Replies on behalf of respondent no.2-Punjab Pollution Control Board and respondent no.4-Think Gas Ludhiana Private Limited have been filed.
4. Learned AG appearing for respondent no.1-State of Punjab seeks four weeks' time to file a comprehensive report.
5. It will be open to respondent no.3 also to file reply within the same period.
6. I.A. No. 21/2025 has been filed by the applicant seeking permission to implead MoEF&CC and CPCB as additional respondents. IA 21/2025 is allowed. Applicant is directed to amend the cause title of the OA and serve the newly added respondents and file affidavit of service atleast one week before the next date of hearing.
7. List on 22.07.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

March 27, 2025  
Original Application No. 295/2023  
& Original Application No. 1358/2024  
JG..





# ALL INDIA STEEL REROLLERS ASSOCIATION

(Registered Under the Societies Registration Act. 1860)

Regional Office (Nor  
G. T. Road, Near Bhodey Kan  
Bhadla Road, MANDI GOBINDGARH-147301 (F  
M. : 098556-58060, E-mail : aisramgg@gmail.c  
E-mail : aisramgg@rediffmail.c

AISRA/DIC/2025-26/06

Date: 03.07.2025

To,

The Hon'ble Chief Minister,  
Government of Punjab,  
Chandigarh.

Subject: Request for Amendment in the Action Plan for Clean Air, Mandi Gobindgarh (2019) Based on IIT Delhi Source Apportionment Study (2023) after segregating 23% Industrial emissions between Coal Based and Non-Coal Based Industries and thereafter, Amending State Fuel Policy.

Respected Sir,

We, on behalf of the All India Steel Re-Rollers Association (AISRA) of Mandi Gobindgarh, respectfully submit this representation for your kind consideration and urgent attention towards the amendment of the *Action Plan for Clean Air, Mandi Gobindgarh (2019)*, based on the latest scientific data provided by the *IIT Delhi Source Apportionment Study of 2023*.

The 2019 Action Plan was formulated on the assumption that the industry's contribution to air pollution was 50%, while road dust and vehicular emissions were considered to contribute 35%. Consequently, several stringent regulatory measures were imposed predominantly on the industrial sector.

However, the *IIT Delhi Source Apportionment Study of 2023*, conducted specifically for Mandi Gobindgarh—Punjab's largest steel manufacturing hub—presents a revised, evidence-backed scenario that significantly changes the understanding of pollution sources in the city.

Key Findings of the IIT 2023 Study:-

- Industrial contribution to PM2.5 levels: only 23%
- Road dust contribution: 34%
- Vehicular emissions contribution: 31%

These findings clearly indicate that 65% of PM2.5 pollution arises from non-industrial sources, while over 600 operating industries collectively contribute just 23%. Notably, within this 23%, the contribution of approximately 212 MSME coal-using Rolling Mills is less than 4%, and these are process emissions that are permitted under MoEFCC guidelines.

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Telephones : 65363874, 23389957, Fax : 011-23383142  
E-mail : aisra2003@yahoo.com, aisra2003@gmail.com  
Website : www.allindiasteelra.com

.....2/-

Regional Office (Ea

Chatterjee International Ct  
12-A (4th Floor), 33-A, J.N. F  
Kolkatta-701  
Phone : 033-2288

-2-

Despite this minimal share of process Emissions, the industries in Mandi Gobindgarh have proactively invested in and adopted advanced air pollution control technologies—such as bag filters, wet scrubbers, and multi-cyclone separators—further minimizing their impact on ambient air quality.

**Critical Concern:-** We would like to highlight with great concern that if corrective action is not taken immediately, there is a real risk of further shutdowns of Rolling Mills. In fact, under the restrictive framework of the 2019 Action Plan and the existing State Fuel Policy, more than 30 Rolling Mills have already been forced to shut down, leading to loss of livelihood, industrial decline, and economic distress in the region.

Mandi Gobindgarh has always been the backbone of Punjab's industrial economy. The current policies, however, do not reflect the updated ground realities and risk causing irreversible damage to this vital sector.

In light of these facts, we humbly request:

1. **Revision of Source Apportionment Study and Update of Action Plan:**

- A micro-level study within the 23% industrial share should be commissioned to segregate emissions from:
  - Coal-using industries (e.g., Rolling Mills, Ceramic Units), and
  - Non-coal industries (e.g., Furnaces, CCMs, etc.).
- The Action Plan for Clean Air should then be revised accordingly, based on this updated data, ensuring that future policies are evidence-based and sector-specific.

2. **Minor Amendment in State Fuel Policy:**

- In view of the minimal contribution from Coal Based Rolling Mills, which are just process emissions allowed by MoEFCC and their use of clean technologies, we request minor modifications in the State Fuel Policy to allow Rolling Mills to use fuels of their choice, in line with the best available technologies and national practices, while strictly adhering to MoEFCC standards.

We also humbly request an appointment for a delegation of our representatives to meet your good self in person for a brief consultative discussion, where we will present practical and environmentally responsible suggestions that align with the principles of sustainable development.

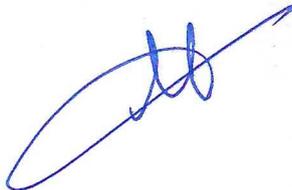
We sincerely hope for your understanding and look forward to your kind support in ensuring just, data-driven, and future-oriented policies for Mandi Gobindgarh.

With the highest regards,

Yours sincerely,

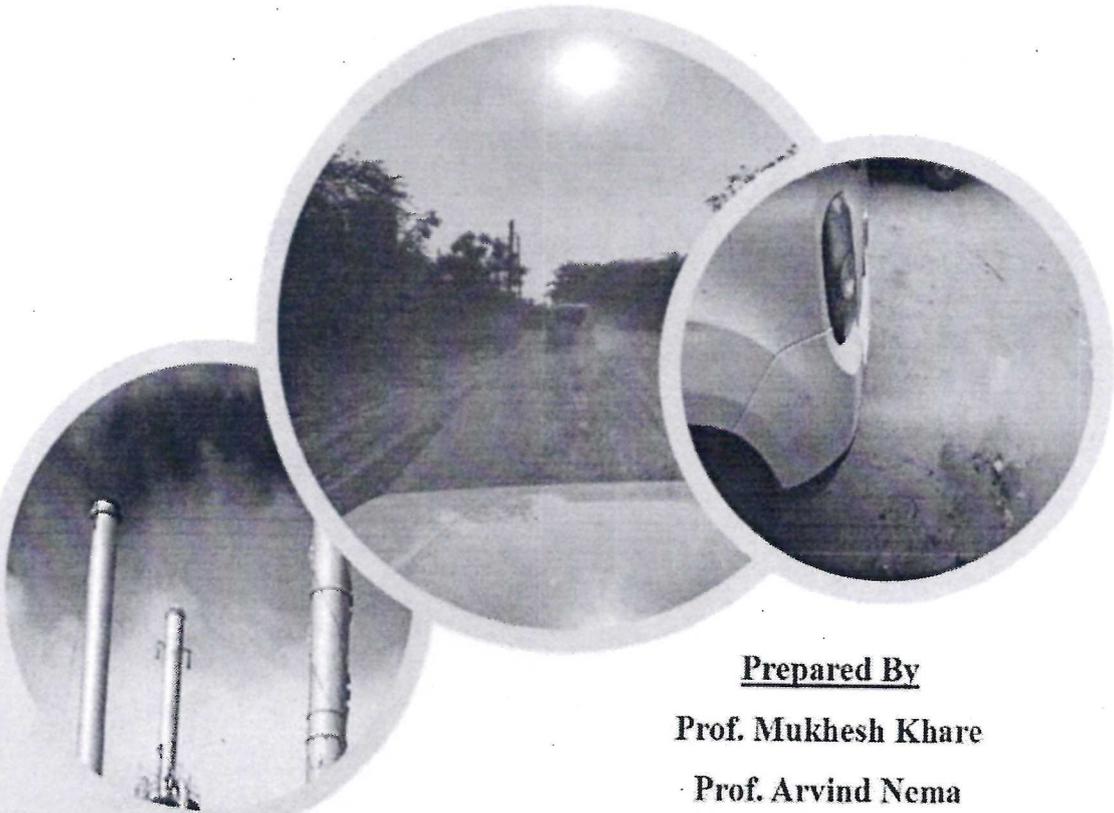


(Vinod Vashisht)  
National President  
M : 78371-00415



# Source Apportionment study of PM in

## Mandi Gobindgarh



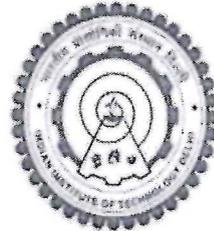
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Sponsoring Organization

Punjab Pollution Control Board

## Executive Summary

The report provides an extensive analysis of air quality issues and presents a structured approach to mitigating particulate matter (PM) pollution in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab. This comprehensive study is conducted by the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and is sponsored by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. The report identifies major sources of air pollution, develops an emission inventory, and proposes an action plan to improve air quality in the city.

Mandi Gobindgarh, known as the "Steel City of Punjab," has significant air quality issues due to its extensive industrial activities, particularly steel manufacturing. The city's population primarily depends on agriculture and industrial work, leading to high levels of air pollution from various sources, including domestic emissions, construction activities, food joints, crematoria, DG sets, industries, vehicles, and road dust. The complexity of pollution sources and their impacts require detailed scientific studies to develop effective air quality management strategies.

The study emphasizes the need for a structured emission inventory to provide reliable estimates of total emissions, their spatial and temporal distribution, identification of main sources, and tracking progress towards air pollution control. This inventory serves as a foundational tool for air quality modeling, developing pollution control strategies. The absence of such structured inventories poses significant challenges for policymakers and researchers in devising effective air quality management strategies.

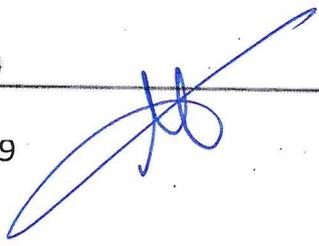
The primary objective of the study is to estimate the contribution of various sources to the ambient air quality of Mandi Gobindgarh and suggest measures to prevent and reduce pollution loads in the city. The study aims to analyze the trends of particulate matter, prepare an exhaustive emission inventory of criteria pollutants, conduct source apportionment using dispersion modeling with AERMOD, identify hotspots for PM in the city, and provide city-specific and hotspot-specific action plans.

According to this source apportionment analysis the major sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Mandi Gobindgarh were identified as road dust (37%), vehicular emissions (35%), and industrial emissions (26%). For PM<sub>10</sub>, road dust was the predominant source (60%), followed by industrial activities (24%) and vehicular emissions (14%). Road dust is identified as a major contributor to particulate matter pollution. Vehicular emissions are substantial due to the movement of various types of vehicles within the city and along major roads connecting to other industrial hubs, which are spread throughout the city and tourist destinations. Industries also contribute significant impact to air quality, as in Punjab Mandi Gobindgarh, along with Ludhiana, are the two principal steel-producing cities with numerous steel rolling mills, induction furnaces, forging units, foundries, and scrap-cutting units.

Domestic, Food joint, Open eat outs, Crematoria, using wood for the cremation of human bodies, are contributed less significantly but were still notable. DG sets, used extensively due to frequent power cuts, add to the pollution.

The gridded emission inventory for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollutants is developed with a resolution of 300m × 300m within the municipal limits. The inventory provides detailed estimates of emissions from each source category and uses methodologies such as surveys, data collection from various sources, and empirical equations based on activity data and emission factors.

Dispersion modeling using AERMOD helps understand the spatial distribution of pollutants and identify hotspots for PM in the city. This modeling, combined with the emission inventory, provides a comprehensive understanding of how particulate matter is dispersed over Mandi Gobindgarh and identifies the dominant sources contributing to elevated concentrations. The study also uses the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model to generate meteorological parameters due to gaps in the station data.



*Source Apportionment Study of Mundi Gobindgarh*

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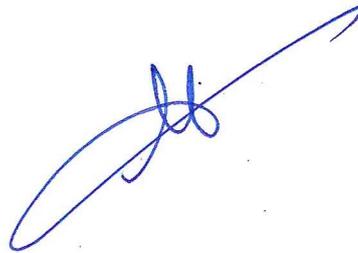
The study identifies several hotspots in the city with high pollution levels and proposes specific action plans to address these areas. Recommendations include regulating the movement of commercial vehicles during peak hours, preparing alternate routes to reduce congestion, sprinkling treated STP water to reduce road dust resuspension, and prioritizing the construction of cemented roads in industrial zones. The report also suggests the formation of a "District Dust Control & Management Cells/Committee" to monitor the implementation of road dust control measures and produce detailed monthly reports on their effectiveness.

City-wide recommendations include relocating industries outside the municipal limits, promoting the use of CNG and e-vehicles, redesigning public transportation with CNG-operated minibuses, ensuring compliance with BS norms, and promoting the use of non-motorized bikes and e-bikes. The report also emphasizes the need for designated parking facilities, vehicle-free zones in busy markets, and the promotion of battery-operated rickshaws.

To address road dust emissions, the report recommends regular sprinkling of treated STP water, frequent use of mechanical sweepers, end-to-end pavement of roads, and the relocation of weighing bridges outside the city limits. The use of LPG for cooking should be promoted, and traditional fuels such as wood and cow dung should be discouraged. The report also suggests setting up new electric crematoria and raising public awareness about their benefits.

The construction sector should follow guidelines for monitoring and controlling dust emissions, and air quality monitoring at construction sites should be mandatory. The promotion of green energy alternatives, such as solar panels, and regular inspection and maintenance of DG sets are also recommended. Industries located outside the designated industrial area should be shifted to ensure better management by the PPCB.

The report provides a detailed framework for understanding the sources of air pollution, their impacts, and the necessary actions to mitigate these effects, aligning with the broader vision of the Government of Punjab's "Mission Tandrust Punjab" initiative.



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
(CABINET AFFAIRS BRANCH)

## Notification

Dated, Chandigarh 30.08.2025

No: 7/18/2025-3Cab/5263 The Governor of Punjab is pleased to constitute a Cabinet Sub Committee to oversee and implement the comprehensive solutions regarding the issue of Air Pollution by Coal Fired Furnaces based Industries operating in Mandi Gobindgarh area of Punjab. The committee will comprise the following:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Hon'ble Minister, Industries & Commerce, Punjab                     | Chairperson |
| 2. Hon'ble Minister, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab | Member      |
| 3. Hon'ble Minister, Local Government, Punjab                          | Member      |

2. The Cabinet Sub-Committee would be assisted by Administrative Secretaries of concerned Departments and Chairperson, PPCB. The Committee shall meet at least once every month or as often as needed. The Committee is empowered to co-opt domain experts and invite relevant technical institutions as required. All departments shall extend full cooperation in the implementation of decisions taken by the Committee.

Mandate of the High-Level Committee:

1. Develop a framework for revision of Action Plan for Clean Air in Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab.
2. Make recommendations regarding policy interventions to address the issue.
3. Examine and make recommendations regarding the necessity of any fresh study by Institute of Repute regarding this matter.
4. To engage with regulatory agencies of Central Government and State Government as necessary, to ensure alignment between regulations/directives and on ground status.
5. Any other task as may be assigned by Hon'ble Chief Minister from time to time

Dated, Chandigarh

K A P Sinha

30/08/2025

Chief Secretary, Punjab

Endst. No: 7/18/2025-3Cab/5264-5270

Dated, Chandigarh 30.08.2025

A Copy of above is forwarded to following for Information and necessary action:-

1. Hon'ble Minister, Industries & Commerce, Punjab.
2. Hon'ble Minister, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab.
3. Hon'ble Minister, Local Government, Punjab.
4. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab.
5. Administrative Secretary, Department of Local Government, Punjab.
6. Administrative Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Punjab.
7. Administrative Secretary, Department of Science, Technology & Environment, Punjab.
8. Administrative Secretary, Department of Industries & Commerce, Punjab.
9. Chairperson, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Punjab

Malkit Singh

Superintendent

Endst. No: 7/18/2025-3Cab/5271

Dated, Chandigarh 30.08.2025

A copy is forwarded to the Controller, Printing and Stationery, Punjab, Chandigarh with the request that this Notification may be published in the Punjab Government Gazette (Extra ordinary) and copy of the Notification may be supplied to this Department as early as possible.

Malkit Singh

Superintendent