

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

Original Application No. 687/2023

In re: Air Quality Index in various Cities

Introduction

This original application involves issue relating to deteriorating air quality in different cities on PAN India basis as reflected in the Air Quality Index (AQI).

The OA was first taken up suo motu on 03.11.2023 on the basis of AQI of different cities from 20.10.2023 onwards reflecting the dip in air quality to ‘very poor’ and even ‘severe’ in various cities.

The Hon’ble NGT vide order dated 05.12.2023 in the matter of OA no. 687/2023 In re: Air Quality Index in various Cities Observed as follows:

“In respect of manner of utilization of funds received, we find that only few States have used it for setting up of AQI Monitoring Stations. In some States, we have found that the funds have been utilized under the heads which may not have direct connection with the improvement of air quality. In fact, funds are required to be utilized as per the approved action plan for non-attainment cities under the NCAP and action plans approved for cities not falling as non-attainment cities.

Hence, States are required to utilize the fund promptly and for the purpose it has been allocated without leaving any gap in utilization. The cities under consideration where apportionment study has not been done are required to complete the said apportionment study in respect of the factors contributing in pollution and focus on those factors which have a larger share in contribution. Further efforts are required to ensure that the air quality improves in the cities under consideration.

Hence, all the concerned States are directed to file further action taken report keeping in view the observations made above within eight weeks by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in

preferpably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.”

The status of utilization of the fund received under XV FC and NCAP.

1) Utilization of Fund:

CPCB had declared 102 cities of India in the first list of “Non-attainment cities” under National Clean Air Programmme (NCAP) which does not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards prescribed under Air Act 1981 and additional 20 more cities are included in the second list of “Non-attainment cities”. Two cities of Gujarat namely **Ahmedabad** and **Surat** are Non-attainment cities as per first list and **Vadodara** is added in the second list of “Non-attainment cities”. Rajkot is million-plus city included in the list. All the 4 cities are presently funded under XV-FC.

These four cities between 2019 -2020 to 2022 – 2023 have received total fund of Rs. 808 crore (Rs. 796 crore under the XV FC and Rs.12 Cr under NCAP).

City wise receipt of total fund and its utilization as on 31/01/2024 is as under,

Funding : Under XV FC		
City	Total Funds Released (Cr)	Total Funds Utilized (Cr)
Ahmedabad	359.54	307.56
Surat	255.18	255.13
Vadodara	98.18	83.50
Rajkot	83.10	66.94
TOTAL	796	713.13
% Utilization	89.58%	
Note : As details given by Gujarat Municipal Finance Board.		

Funding : Under NCAP	
City	Total Funds Released & utilized (Cr)
Ahmedabad	6
Surat	6
TOTAL	12
% Utilization	100%
Note : 1. Fund received during 2019 -2020. 2. Details as submitted by cities.	

2) Status of Source Apportionment studies:

City	Status of SAS
Ahmedabad	Completed by TERI
Surat	Completed by GEMI
Vadodara	TERI is carrying out the study. Monitoring is completed and final report is to be submitted by March 2024
Rajkot	GEMI is carrying out the study. Monitoring is completed and final report is to be submitted by February 2024
