

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 570/2024

**In the matter of:**

News item titled "Major fire breaks out of at Bhagtanwala Dump" appearing in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024

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**REPORT OF CPCB SUBMITTED IN COMPLIANCE TO HON'BLE  
NGT ORDER DATED 13.05.2024 IN THE MATTER OF OA No.  
570/2024; NEWS ITEM TITLED "MAJOR FIRE BREAKS OUT AT  
BHAGTANWALA DUMP" APPEARING IN THE TRIBUNE DATED  
11.05.2024**

**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change)  
"Parivesh Bhawan", East Arjun Nagar,  
Delhi-110032**

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**REPORT OF CPCB IN COMPLIANCE TO HON'BLE NGT ORDER DATED 13.05.2024 IN THE MATTER OF OA No. 570/2024; NEWS ITEM TITLED " MAJOR FIRE BREAKS OUT AT BHAGTANWALA DUMP" APPEARING IN THE TRIBUNE DATED 11.05.2024**

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**1.0 BACKGROUND WITH NGT DIRECTIONS:**

Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 13.05.2024 in the matter of news items titled "Major fire breaks out at Bhagtanwala Dump" appearing in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024.) directed in para 2,3,4,6,7 and 09, as reproduced below :

***Para 02:** News item relates to eruption of a major fire at the Bhagtanwala garbage dump last night. As per the news item, almost all heaps of garbage on the 20 acre dumping ground caught fire which created a panicky situation in localities around the dump. The fire started around 10 pm and in a few minutes the whole dumping ground turned into "volcano". High flames were visible from a distance of 2 km. Residents of nearby localities assembled on the Chabbal (Jhabaal) road as they feared that fire would spread in the residential areas.*

***Para 03:** The news item further states that garbage had been burning for the last several days at the dump. Though high flames were doused by firefighters, but the garbage kept simmering and the blaze flared up after the wind started flowing. The news item alleges that the fire stopped only after the wind stopped blowing at midnight. Otherwise, fire brigade personnel were helpless in dousing the high flames.*

***Para 04:** The News item highlights that around 19 metric tonnes of garbage is lying just one-and-a-half kilometers away from the Golden Temple. Regular burning of garbage is polluting the air in the city, but no efforts are being made by the authorities concerned to end this menace.*

***Para 06:** Original application raises substantial issue relating to violation of provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Environment Protection Act, 1986.*

**Para-07:** "Hence, we implead the following as respondents

- (i) Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board;
- (ii) Member Secretary, Punjab State Pollution Control Board;
- (iii) Commissioner, Amritsar Municipal Corporation and
- (iv) District Magistrate, Amritsar

***Para 09:** Respondent No.1, Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is directed to submit a comprehensive report on the issue involved in this original application.*

A copy of Hon'ble NGT order is attached as **Annexure-I**

### **1.1 ISSUES RAISED IN THE NEWS ITEM:**

The CPCB was directed to submit a comprehensive report on the issue involved in this original application. A careful review of the Hon'ble NGT Order indicates the following main issues involved in OA No. 570/2024:

- i. The eruption of a major fire at the Bhagtarnwala garbage dump, wherein almost all heaps of garbage on the 20 acre dumping ground caught fire which created a panics situation in localities around the dump. The fire started around 10 pm and in a few minutes the whole dumping ground turned into "volcano". High flames were visible from a distance of 2 km. Residents of nearby localities assembled on the Jhabaal road as they feared that fire would spread in the residential areas.*
- ii. The garbage had been burning for the last several days at the dump. The fire stopped only after the wind stopped blowing at midnight. Otherwise, fire brigade personnel were helpless in dousing the high flames.*
- iii. Regular burning of garbage is polluting the air in the city, but no efforts are being made by the authorities concerned to end this menace.*
- iv. Violation of provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Environment Protection Act, 1986.*

### **2.0 ACTION TAKEN BY CPCB**

*CPCB official Shri Jagdish Meena, Scientist D visited the sites of Bhagtanwala and Chhabal (Jhabaal) Road, Amritsar, on June 24, 2024 along with PPCB officials and Municipal Corporation, Amritsar officials*

#### **2.1. Guidelines and directions issued by CPCB and compliance by SPCB:**

##### **2.1.1 Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste**

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

- a. Analysis of various screened fraction materials i.e. RDF, fine earth / bio earth etc., prior to its disposal/utilization.
- b. Preparation of plan for utilization/disposal of screened fractions.

- c. Adequate provisions for leachate treatment.
- d. Maintenance of records / documents for disposal/utilization of the RDFs or fine earth and other materials

### 2.1.2 Directions issued on Bio-mining :

CPCB issued Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all SPCB/ PCCs for bio-mining of legacy waste on 27.1.2021. CPCB had also directed all states to submit the action taken report within 30 days of issuance of this direction. The following directions were issued for compliance by the SPCBs/PCCs:

1. SPCBs/PCCs to provide complete list of Legacy Waste dumpsites in their States/UTs as per format enclosed.
2. SPCBs/PCCs to ensure that necessary action for bio mining and bioremediation of these dumpsites is done by the concerned Local Authorities in compliance with Provisions of SWM Rules, 2016.
3. SPCBs/PCCs shall ensure that concerned Local Authorities engaged in the bio mining process of legacy waste follow procedures as per CPCB Guidelines for Disposal of Legacy Waste with specific compliance to the following points,
  - I. Analysis of various screened fraction materials i.e. RDF, fine earth / bio earth etc., prior to its disposal/utilization.
  - II. Preparation of plan for utilization/disposal of screened fractions.
  - III. Adequate provisions for leachate treatment.
  - IV. Maintenance of records / documents for disposal/utilization of the RDFs or fine earth and other materials
4. SPCBs / PCCs shall ensure that the local bodies prepare time targeted Action Plan for biomining /bio-remediation of these dumpsites in compliance with points listed above. The timelines as specified in SWM Rules, 2016 and Hon'ble NGT Directions on the matter are to be adhered to for remediation of these sites.
5. SPCBs / PCCs to ensure that no fresh waste is disposed at these dumpsites and local authorities make proper arrangement for management of fresh solid waste.
6. SPCBs to ensure that at least one legacy waste dumpsite is remediated in their jurisdiction which can be considered as model for compliance for other legacy Waste dump sites in Non-Attainment Cities (NAC).

Copy of the directions on biomining of legacy waste is attached as **Annexure-II**.

*No action taken report (ATR) has been received from Punjab pollution Control Board (PPCB), in compliance to the above directions issued by CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, on Jan 27, 2021.*

*However, as per information provided by PPCB during site visit, PPCB RO, Amritsar in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT order dated 10.01.2020 and 17.09.2020 in O.A. No. 606 of 2018, Punjab Pollution Control Board has imposed total Environmental Compensation of Rs 450 Lac (from 01-07-2022 to 31-03-2024) on Municipal Corporation, Amritsar (Annexure-III). However, it was also informed by PPCB, that the amount of environment compensation has not yet been deposited by Municipal Corporation, Amritsar.*

As per provision of SWM Rules, 2016 bioremediation was to be completed by April 07, 2021. However, as observed by CPCB team:

- *Approximately 7 Lac MT of legacy waste (as of March 31, 2024) is still lying dumped at the Bhagtanwala dump site, Amritsar.*
- *Approximately 70,000 MT of legacy waste is still lying there at Chabbal Road dump Site, Amritsar.*

*Further, it was observed by CPCB team during site visit that Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, is not complying with provisions of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 regarding bio-mining of legacy waste despite issuance of Directions by CPCB through SPCB, as explained in Section 2.1.2.*

### **2.1.3 Directions issued on Management of Fire in Dumpsites:**

The CPCB issued the following directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, on May 26, 2022, to all SPCBs/PCCs for managing fire hazards at dumpsites:

- i. Provide updated information w.r.t. Directions dated 27.1.2021 regarding biomining issued to SPCBs/ PCCs. It is to be ensured that updated information w.r.t. at least all metro cities is provided in accordance with NGT Directions.
- ii. Direct State UDDs to conduct comprehensive risk assessment studies and accordingly prepare detailed On-site Emergency Plan for each dumpsite located in their jurisdiction to address the following issues:

- The onsite emergency plan to cover potential risks/ emergencies due to fire, obnoxious/ flammable emissions, odour, vector borne diseases, rodents, bird nuisance, seasonal affects i.e. summer/ winter/ monsoon (rainy seasons) and all other potential risks at the dumpsites.
  - The onsite emergency plans to address the worst possible case scenarios preferably using appropriate risk assessment softwares covering any or all of the potential emergency issues/ scenarios cited above.
  - The on-site emergency management plan to cover likely affect geographical area including population, flora and fauna in and around the dumpsites.
  - The on-site emergency plan to contain detailed remedial measures both hardware and software based for mitigating various emergency situations, which should finally be finally be available with respective control rooms and on-site emergency notice boards.
- iii. To direct District Collector or District Emergency Authority designated by the State Government for integrating such (dumpsites) On-site Emergency Plans with the existing Off-site District Disaster Management Plans in their respective Districts, prepared by the Local Authorities in compliance with Rule 14 of the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989
- iv. The State/ UT Authorities to prepare the on-site and off-site (or update off-site) emergency management plans preferable through an expert agency on the subject.
- v. **The following interim measures to be implemented on priority till the time On-site/ Off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented.**
- a. **Disposal of waste:** Fresh waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite where bio-remediation is being undertaken. Organic waste from slaughter house, fish market, etc not to be disposed of in dumpsite. It is to be further ensured that industrial waste/E-Waste / lithium battery is not dumped at the site. Waste that is being unloaded at the site should be examined visually for potential fire sources; fire sources when located should be neutralized with cover material immediately. Emergency tipping area to be provided to set aside from the immediate working area where incoming loads of material known to be on fire or suspected of being so can be deposited, inspected and dealt with. Adequate compacting of waste to be done to minimize formation of air or methane pockets which can lead to subsurface fire at site

- b. Monitoring at dumpsites:** Methane Gas Detectors (on downwind side to be installed at site so that area with high methane concentration can be identified and preventive actions be undertaken. Further temperature at windrows to be monitored with non-contact infrared thermometer (as used for monitoring human body temperature under COVID circumstances) and records be maintained for any major deviations. The temperature is to be in the range of 35'C to 59'C. Treated leachate / water to be sprayed on the waste when rise in temperature is observed.
  
- c. Arrangements for Fire Extinguishing:** Arrangements for adequate storage of sand / chemical fire extinguishing medias such as foam or powder at site to be made to douse fire in case a fire incident is reported. Usage of water for dousing fire to be avoided. Isolation and allowing rapid natural burnout or smothering with soil to be done for dousing dumpsite fires. Dedicated fire tenders (preferably chemical extinguishing media) and adequate fire safety measures are to be deputed, specifically during summer season when dumpsites fire is more likely to take place. All mobile equipment or vehicles should be fitted with fire extinguisher and spark arrester.
  
- d. Health & Safety of Workers:** Fire protection measures and safety equipment to be provided to all workers at the site and checked before entry to the dumpsite. Workers to be trained for detection of fire and necessary action to be taken in case of fire. Periodic training of workers be conducted in Safe handling of Waste, PPE's, Health & Safety issues etc.
  
- e. Mock Drills & safety audits:** Periodic mock drills to be conducted to prevent fire accidents at dumpsites. Quarterly, Fire Safety and Hazardous Emissions Audits to be conducted.

*SPCBs/PCCs were directed by CPCB to submit action taken report within 15 days regarding implementation of interim measures till the time On-site / Off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented. However, No action taken report (ATR) has been received from Punjab pollution Control Board (PPCB), in compliance to the above directions issued by CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, on May 26, 2022.*

Copy of the directions regarding management of fire hazard in dumpsites is provided in (Annexure-IV).

As per information provided by PPCB during site visit, the following actions have been taken by Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) in this regard:

- *A letter dated 14-09-2022 (Annexure-V) has been issued to Commissioner, Municipal Corporations, for compliance of the directions issued by CPCB on 26/5/2024.*
- *Further, Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 were also issued by PPCB vide Letter dated 19/07/2022 (Annexure-VI), to the Principal Secretary to Govt of Punjab, Department of local government, Chandigarh, to submit action taken report with regard to directions issued by CPCB on 26/5/2024. However, no response was received from the Concerned Department.*

***Further, It was observed by CPCB team during site visit that none of the measures including interim measures suggested above for fire management at dumpsites, by CPCB through Directions to SPCB have not been implemented at site, as explained in Section 2.1.3.***

## **2.2. Site Inspection by CPCB:**

Site inspection of the Bhagtanwala and Chabbal (Jhabaal) Road dumpsites located in Amritsar was conducted by a team of officials from CPCB Regional Directorate, Chandigarh on June 24, 2024 to verify the facts and collect secondary information from the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, to prepare a comprehensive report on the issues involved in the Original Application. PPCB Regional Officer, Amritsar and Officers from Municipal Corporation Amritsar were also associated during the site inspection.

### **2.2.1 Brief Facts about Bhagtanwala dumpsite:**

The Bhagatanwal dump site in Amritsar is positioned at latitude 31° 36' 2'' N, and longitude 74° 52' 31'' E. The dump site in Bhagtanwala falls within the MC limits and it is established in an area of approximately 25 acres. The officials of Municipal Corporation Amritsar (MCA) reported that the site has been operational since 1980 (about 44 years). Further reported by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, the maximum elevation from the ground level is approximately 8 meters, with an average height of approximately 04 meters at the Bhagtanwala dump site. As reported by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar (MCA), the Bhagtanwala dumping site is the only operational site in Amritsar where fresh waste is also dumped along with legacy waste. Presently, this site receives solid waste average 308 MT/day. The bioremediation activities at the Bhagtanwala site started on 5/03/2019 and approximately 4,05,5000 MT of waste has been remediated by the concessionaire (M/s Amritsar MSW Limited). ***During visit, the team observed that bioremediation and bio-mining processes were not being carried out.***

### **2.2.2 Waste characterization of the legacy waste dumped at Bhagtanwala site:**

As reported by MC, Amritsar that the composition of legacy waste dumped at Bhagtanwala site includes of 50-55% biodegradable waste, Building waste (25-30%), industrial waste (8-10%), Plastics (1%) and woody waste (5%), paper (5%) and glass waste (1%) etc.

### **2.2.3 Brief Facts about Chabbal Road dumpsite:**

The Chabbal Road dump site in Amritsar is positioned at latitude 31° 31'2''N, and longitude 74° 85' 30''E. This dump site also falls within the MC limits and it is established in an area of approximately 4.5 acres. The officials of Municipal Corporation Amritsar (MCA) reported that the site is operational between 1980 to 1999. This site maximum elevation from the ground level is approximately 4 meters, with an average height of approximately 2 meters at the Chabbal dump site. Further reported by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar (MCA), the Chabbal dump site is non-operational since 1999. The bioremediation activities at the Chabbal Road dump site started on 16.06.2018 and upto March 2019 approximately 20,000 MT of waste has been remediated by the concessionaire (M/s Amritsar MSW Limited). Then the machineries are shifted to Bhagtanwala dump site. *During visit, the team observed that bioremediation and bio-mining processes were not being carried out.*

### **2.2.4 Waste Characterization of the legacy waste Dumped at Chabbal Road dump site:**

As reported by MC, Amritsar that the composition of legacy waste dumped at Chabbal Road dump site includes of 50-55% biodegradable waste, Inert waste (25-30%), Industrial waste (8-10%), Plastics (1%) and woody waste (5%), paper (5%) and Glass waste (1%) etc.

### **2.2.5. Cause of fire incident happened at Night of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>May 2024 at Bhagtanwala dump, Amritsar, Punjab, as assessed by Municipal Corporation, Amritsar:**

During the site inspection on June 24, 2024, the CPCB team inquired about the cause of the fire that occurred at the Bhagtanwala dump site during the night of May 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The Municipal Corporation of Amritsar provided a report indicating that methane gas emissions typically remain within their Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) value due to the dumping of fresh waste. However, on the night of the fire, the methane emissions may have exceeded the LEL due to the extreme heat and dry conditions that day. *However, it was observed by CPCB Team that there is no arrangement made for detecting methane gas at the dump site. It was informed that an area of approximately 03 acres of land of Bhagtanwala dumpsite was affected by the fire incident, which was controlled within 04-06 hours. However, the quantity of waste engulfed in the fire has not been assessed,*

(A copy of the fire incident Report as provided by Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, is attached as **Annexure-VII**).

### 3.0 Observations made by the CPCB Team during site on 24.06.2024:

#### 3.1 : Bhagtanwala Dump Site, Amritsar:

1. During site visit, the CPCB team observed small surface fires in various locations of the Bhagtanwala dump site.
2. The dump site in Bhagtanwala falls within the MC limits and is established in an area of approximately 25 acres. The officials of Municipal Corporation Amritsar (MCA) reported that the site has been operational since 1980 (about 44 years).
3. As reported by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar (MCA), about 10,000 people are residing within 1 kilometer of the site, and approximately 12,000 people are residing within 3 km of the Bhagtanwala dump site.
4. As reported by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, the maximum elevation from the ground level is approximately 8 meters, with an average height of approximately 4 meters at the Bhagtanwala dump site.
5. The team observed that the grain market and Bhagtanwala Railway Station are the commercial places that are situated in the range of 1 to 3 km from the Bhagtanwala dump site.
6. As reported by the Municipal Corporation of Amritsar (MCA), the Bhagtanwala dumping site is the only operational site in Amritsar where fresh waste is also dumped along with legacy waste.
7. As informed by the MC representative, vehicles operated through the concessionaire (M/s Amritsar MSW Limited) for the collection and transportation of solid waste are routed through a weigh bridge for measuring the weight and log books are maintained. ***However, Municipal Corporation-operated vehicles (tractors, trolleys, Tippers, compactors, etc.) are not routed through weigh bridges, and records of the same are not maintained.***
8. The Municipal Corporation of Amritsar officials informed that, as per a survey carried out in 2019, 11 lacs MT of legacy waste was present at the Bhagtanwala dump site. The concessionaire, M/s Amritsar MSW Limited, initiated the bioremediation process on March 5, 2019, and has stopped it in May 2023. To date, approximately 4 Lac MT of legacy waste has been remediated by the concessionaire. ***It is further reported that approximately 7 Lac MT of legacy waste (as of March 31, 2024) is still lying dumped at the Bhagtanwala dump site.***

9. *At the time of the visit, the team observed that bioremediation and bio-mining processes were not being carried out.*
10. At the time of the visit, the team observed that some ragpickers were collecting recyclable material from the Bhagtanwala dump site.
11. *The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, has not provided an office facility for record-keeping or a shelter for keeping equipment and machinery.*
12. The team observed that a boundary wall has been constructed only on the railway line side; however, on the other sides, *no boundary wall or fencing has been constructed around the dump site, due to which the garbage was found spreading outside the dump site on the road leading to the site.*
13. As informed by the MC representatives, two surface fire water tenders have been dedicated for dump sites. *At the time of the visit, the team observed that one fire water tender was stationed at the Bhagtanwala dump site and another was stationed at the Chabal Road dumpsite for dousing off the fire.*
14. The team observed that *no green belts had developed around these dump sites located at the Bhagtanwala and the Chabbal Road in Amritsar.*
15. *No Buffer Zone has been left by MC Amritsar around the dump site facilities.*
16. During site visit, the CPCB team observed that *no arrangements for leachate collection and its treatment have been provided, further, it was reported that the leachate is partially carried upto the main sewerage line and remains stagnated at the Bhagtanwala dump site.*
17. *No onsite emergency response plan has been prepared.*
18. *No arrangement is provided for the detection of methane gas formation at the site.*
19. *No CCTV cameras have been provided at the site.*
20. *No piezometer wells are installed around the dump site for groundwater monitoring.*  
As informed by the MC representative, two piezometer wells were installed at the Bhagtanwala dump site earlier. *But at the time of the visit, none of them were found operational; hence, the CPCB team could not take samples of groundwater to assess the contamination of the groundwater.*

### **3.2 Chabbal Road dump Site, Amritsar:**

As reported by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, the Chabbal Road dump also falls within MC Limit and has an area of approximately 4.5 acres. *It was reported that this site has been*

*non-operational since 1999. At the time of the visit, the team observed that no fresh waste was dumped at the Chabbal Road dump site.*

*At the time of the visit, the team observed that a small surface fire was also observed at the Chabbal (Jhabaal) road dump site. This site is located in close proximity to the residential areas, which are prone to damage in the event of large-scale fires in the residential areas.*

As reported by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, about 5000 people are residing within 1 km of the dump site, and approximately 15000 people are residing within 3 km of the dump site.

As reported by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar's maximum elevation from the ground level is approximately 4 meters, with an average height of approximately 2 meters.

It was reported that about 90,000 MT of legacy waste was dumped at the Chabbal (Jhabaal) road dump site and the concessionaire started the bio-remediation on June 16, 2018, and up to March 2019, approximately 20,000 MT of waste was bio-remediated by the concessionaire. *Subsequently, the machinery was moved to the Bhagtanwala dump site because no funds were allocated for bio-remediation. Approximately 70,000 MT of legacy waste is still lying there at Chabbal Road dump Site, Amritsar.*

The various photographs of the dump sites taken during site visit are attached as **Annexure VIII**.

#### **4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations:**

*The Municipal Corporation of Amritsar has not complied with the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 and not-followed the directions issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regarding bio-mining of legacy waste and management of fire hazards at the dumping sites located at Bhagtanwala and Chabbal Road, Amritsar. It is recommended that:*

- i. The local authorities promptly take action to comply with the provisions of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016, as outlined in Rule 15, which defines their duties and responsibilities.*
- ii. Despite deadline of April 07, 2021 as per provision of SWM Rules, 2016 for bioremediation, Directions of CPCB dated January 27, 2021 and several directions issued Hon'ble NGT for bioremediation of the dumpsites stipulating timeframe, huge quantities of legacy waste (Approx. 7 Lac MT at Bhagtanwala dump site and approx. 70,000 MT at Chabbal Road dump Site) is lying at both dump sites under the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, therefore the concerned local authorities are required to submit their action plan for completing bio-mining of legacy waste at*

*both the dumpsites. The State Urban Development Department and PPCB are required to ensure implementation and monitoring of the same in a time bound manner.*

- iii. Despite being situated near densely populated areas, the guidelines and directions of CPCB for managing fire hazards at dump sites are not being adequately followed by the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar. *It is recommended that interim measures, as outlined in Section 2.1.3. (v) of this report, as per CPCB's directions issued on May 26, 2022, be immediately implemented until comprehensive On-site/Off-site Emergency plan is prepared and executed.* Additionally, PPCB is required to take action against the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, for failing to comply with the directions issued by both CPCB and PPCB, in this regard.
- iv. It was noted that unprocessed fresh waste is also being dumped at the site where bio-remediation is ongoing. *Municipal Corporation, Amritsar has also mentioned this in its report citing it as a probable reason of fire incident, which occurred on May 10th-11th, 2024. Therefore, the disposal of fresh waste at Bhagtanwala dump site, Amritsar should be immediately stopped, as also directed by CPCB in its Directions issued on May 26, 2022. Further, Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is required to take actions for processing of fresh waste also, as per provisions of SWM Rules, 2016.*
- v. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is required to take immediate action on the *various non-compliances observed by CPCB team* with regard to *disposal of fresh waste at the dumpsite, development of offsite emergency plan, conduction of risk assessment, installation of video cameras, development of green belt, arrangements for adequate storage of sand / chemical fire extinguishing medias such as foam or powder at site to douse fire in case a fire incident is reported, installation of methane gas detectors, Adequate fire safety measures including dedicated fire tenders (preferably chemical extinguishing media) and submit the action taken report to PPCB and CPCB.*
- vi. *District Administration is required to integrate the On-site Emergency Plan with the existing Off-site District Disaster Management Plan* so that corrective and remedial actions are implemented immediately in case of such fire incidents.
- vii. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is required to ensure weighing of the entire quantity of waste brought to dump sites and the number of trips to ensure the

processing of fresh waste as per MSW guidelines without mixing it with the legacy waste.

- viii. The municipal Corporation, Amritsar is required to make *necessary arrangements such as additional security, CCTV surveillance ensure that no unauthorized access is there* at the Solid Waste Management/Dumping Site, as observed by CPCB team during site visit.
- ix. It was observed by CPCB team that *untreated leachate is finding its way to sewer drain besides stagnation at dumping site and that too without having any arrangement to monitor the quality of ground water*. Therefore, the Municipal Corporation, Amritsar is required to make *arrangements for treatment of leachate, installation of piezometers for ground water quality monitoring in and around the dump site*, as per CPCB guidelines and submit periodical reports to PPCB/CPCB.
- x. The Municipal Corporation, Amritsar, is also required to implement air pollution control measures and carry out ambient air quality at dump sites and vicinity as per CPCB guidelines and submit periodical reports to PPCB/CPCB.
- xi. *In view of the fact that Punjab Pollution Control Board is yet to submit the action taken report in compliance to i) the directions issued by CPCB for enforcement of provisions of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2016 regarding bio-mining of legacy waste on 27.1.2021 under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and ii) the directions issued by CPCB on May 26, 2022 for managing fire hazards at dumpsites, under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Punjab Pollution Control Board may take necessary action to ensure implementation of the these directions and submit an action taken report.*
- xii. Municipal Corporation, Amritsar shall prepare a time bound action plan ensuring collection & management of solid wastes as per SWM Rules 2016, bio-mining of entire wastes and other measures w.r.t. on-site emergency, fire control, etc. This time bound action plan should be submitted to the Secretary, Urban Development in Punjab, who may ensure its timely implementation. The Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) will monitor and oversee the compliance of the same.

**Inspecting officer:**

Name & Designation	Organizations /Institutes / Departments	Signature
Sh. Jagdish Prasad Meena, , Scientist-'D'	Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Chandigarh	Jagdish 23/08/24

Item No.22

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 570/2024

News item titled "Major fire breaks out at Bhagtanwala Dump" appearing in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024

Date of hearing: 13.05.2024

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

**ORDER**

1. This original application is registered *suo-moto* on the basis of the news item titled "Major fire breaks out at Bhagtanwala Dump " appearing in The Tribune dated 11.05.2024.

2. News item relates to eruption of a major fire at the Bhagtanwala garbage dump last night. As per the news item, almost all heaps of garbage on the 20 acre dumping ground caught fire which created a panicky situation in localities around the dump. The fire started around 10 pm and in a few minutes the whole dumping ground turned into "volcano". High flames were visible from a distance of 2 km. Residents of nearby localities assembled on the Jhabaal road as they feared that fire would spread in the residential areas.

3. The news item further states that garbage had been burning for the last several days at the dump. Though high flames were doused by firefighters, but the garbage kept simmering and the blaze flared up after the wind started flowing. The news item alleges that the fire stopped only after the wind stopped blowing at midnight. Otherwise, fire brigade personnel were helpless in dousing the high flames.

4. The news item highlights that around 19 metric tonnes of garbage is lying just one-and-a-half kilometre away from the Golden Temple. Regular burning of garbage is polluting the air in the city, but no efforts are being made by the authorities concerned to end this menace.

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter in suo-motu exercise of power has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha &Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

6. Original application raises substantial issue relating to violation of provisions of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Environment Protection Act, 1986.

7. Hence, we implead the following as respondents:-

- (i) Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-32;
- (ii) Member Secretary, Punjab State Pollution Control Board, Head Office, Vatavaran Bhawan; PPCB, Nabha Road, Patiala;
- (iii) Commissioner, Amritsar Municipal Corporation, C-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar;
- (iv) District Magistrate, Amritsar, Officer of Deputy Commissioner Amritsar-Punjab.

8. Respondents are directed to file their response/reply atleast one week before the next date of hearing.

9. Respondent No.1-Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is directed to submit a comprehensive report on the issue involved in this original application.

10. List on 27.08.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

May 13, 2024  
Original Application No. 570/2024  
JG.



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

27 .01.2021

To,

15320-15354

**The Chairman,**  
All SPCBs/PCCs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Contd.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Contd.**

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

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

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

  
(Shiv Das Meena)  
Chairman

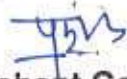

Copy to:

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

: For necessary information pls

✓ 2. **DH- IT Division, CPCB**

: For uploading on website pls

  
✓ **(Prashant Gargava)**  
Member Secretary 

**Period and amount and of Environmental Compensation imposed to Municipal Corporation, Amritsar**

Sr. No.	Name of the ULB	Period for Imposition EC		Total Month	Amount (in lacs)
		From	To		
1.	Municipal Corporation, Amritsar	01.07.2020	31.03.2021	9	90
		01.04.2021	28.02.2022	11	110
		01.03.2022	30.09.2023	19	190
		01.10.2023	31.03.2024	6	60
<b>Total</b>				<b>45</b>	<b>450</b>



CP-99/143/2021-UPC-II-HO-CPCB-HO

May 26, 2022

To,

The Chairman  
All SPCBs/ PCCs

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with provision of Rule 16 (1a) of SWM Rules, 2016, the State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committee shall enforce these rules in their State through local bodies and review implementation of these rules at least twice a year in close coordination with concerned Directorate of Municipal Administration or Secretary-in-charge of State Urban Development Department;

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

**WHEREAS**, waste disposed at dumpsites is prone to catching fire in view of inadequate waste management practices adopted at these sites;

**WHEREAS**, several fire incidents have been reported recently at Ghazipur & Bhalsawa dumpsites in Delhi, Manesar in Haryana and Ludhiana in Punjab;

‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 286 of 2022, in reference to News item published in The Indian Express dated 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, titled "7 Charred to death in fire near Ludhiana dumpsite" issued the following Directions:

*"CPCB to collect information about garbage dumpsites from all States/ UTs in respect of at least Metro cities and issue statutory directions / guidelines for preventing such fires and handling them effectively if they take place, specifying serious consequences of delay in dealing with the issue, in violation of binding rules."*

**WHEREAS**, as per the information provided by SPCBs/PCCs there are 3,184 dumpsites in the country, of which XXX are located in your State/UT;

**WHEREAS**, CPCB had issued Directions dated October 20, 2018 regarding fire at Bhalsawa site to North Delhi Municipal Corporation in which specific measures to be taken for prevention of fire at the dumpsites had been identified which amongst others included using Construction & Demolition waste material to immediately check fire, stopping dumping of fresh waste, installation of CCTV cameras, setting up of decentralized facilities for biodegradable waste;

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

**WHEREAS**, CPCB had issued following Directions dated January 27, 2021 to SPCBs/PCCs regarding biomining of legacy waste

- i. SPCBs/PCCs to provide complete list of legacy waste dumpsite in their States /UTs as per format enclosed
- ii. SPCBs/PCCs to ensure that necessary action for biomining and bio-remediation of these dumpsites is done by the concerned Local authorities in compliance with provisions of SWM Rules 2016
- iii. SPCBs/PCCs shall ensure that concerned Local authorities engaged in the biomining process of legacy waste follow procedures as per CPCB Guidelines for disposal of legacy waste with specific compliance to the following points:
  - a. Analysis of various screened fractions i.e. RDF, fine earth / bio earth etc. prior to its disposal / utilization
  - b. Preparation of action plan for utilization / disposal of screened fractions
  - c. Adequate provisions for leachate treatment
  - d. Maintenance of records / documents for disposal / utilization of the RDFs or fine earth and other material

- iv. SPCBS shall ensure that the local bodies prepare time targeted Action Plan for biomining / bio-remediation of these dumpsites in compliance with points listed above. The timeline as specified in SWM Rules and Hon'ble NGT Directions on the matter are to be adhered to for remediation of these sites
- v. SPCBs/PCCs to ensure that no fresh waste is disposed at these dumpsites and local authorities make proper arrangement for management of fresh solid waste
- vi. SPCBs/PCSS to ensure that at least one legacy waste dumpsite is remediated in their jurisdiction which can be considered as model for compliance for other legacy waste dumpsites in Non-Attainment Cities

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

**WHEREAS**, CPCB made the following observations based on inspected various dumpsites, where bioremediation of legacy waste is being carried out:

- i. Fresh solid waste continued to be dumped at these dumpsites.
- ii. Fire incidents have been reported at locations where fresh waste is being dumped
- iii. Inaccessible slopes of garbage were observed
- iv. No standard operating plan in place for prevention and management of dumpsite fires
- v. Cause of fire incident reported is excess release of Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) gas due to anaerobic decomposition of the bio-degradable organic waste, high temperature and dry atmospheric conditions.
- vi. Partial fencing with barbed wire provided at the boundary observed.
- vii. Police patrolling the site not observed.
- viii. No fire tender observed at site.
- ix. Anti-Smog Gun have been installed which were not found in use; **AND**

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

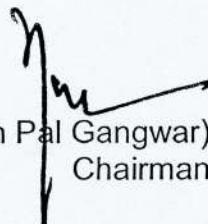
- i. Provide updated information w.r.t Directions dated 27.1.21 regarding biomining issued to SPCBs/PCCs. It is to be ensured that updated information w.r.t at least all Metro cities is provided in accordance with NGT Directions
- ii. Direct State UDDs to conduct comprehensive risk assessment studies and accordingly prepare detailed On-site Emergency Plan for each dumpsite located in their jurisdiction addressing the following issues:
  - a. The onsite emergency plan to cover potential risks / emergencies due to fire, obnoxious / flammable emissions, odour, vector borne diseases,

- rodents, bird nuisance, seasonal affects i.e. summer / winter / monsoon (rainy season) and all other potential risks at the dumpsites.
- b. The onsite emergency plans to address the worst possible case scenarios preferably using appropriate risk assessment softwares covering any or all of the potential emergency issues / scenarios cited above.
  - c. The on-site emergency management plan to cover likely affected geographical area including population, flora & fauna in and around the dumpsites
  - d. The on-site emergency plan to contain detailed remedial measures both hardware and software based for mitigating various emergency situations, which should finally be available with respective control rooms and on-site emergency notice boards.
- iii. To direct District Collector or District Emergency Authority designated by the State Government for integrating such (dumpsites) On-site Emergency Plans with the existing Off-site District Disaster Management Plans in their respective Districts, prepared by the Local Authorities in compliance with Rule 14 of The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989
  - iv. The State / UT Authorities to prepare the on-site & off-site (or update off-site) emergency management plans preferably through an expert agency on the subject.
  - v. The following interim measures to be implemented on priority till the time On-site/Off-site Emergency Plans are prepared and implemented.
    - a. **Disposal of Waste:** Fresh waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite where bio-remediation is being undertaken. Organic waste from slaughter house, fish market etc., industrial waste not to be disposed at the dumpsite. It is to be further ensured that industrial waste / E-waste / lithium battery is not dumped at the site. Waste that is being unloaded at the site should be examined visually for potential fire sources fire sources when located, should be neutralized with cover material immediately. Emergency tipping area to be provided to set aside from the immediate working area where incoming loads of material known to be on fire or suspected of being so can be deposited, inspected and dealt with. Adequate compacting of waste to be done to minimize formation of air or methane pockets which can lead to subsurface fire at site
    - b. **Monitoring at dumpsites:** Methane Gas Detectors (on downwind side) to be installed at site so that area with high methane concentration can be identified and preventive actions be undertaken. Further temperature at windrows to be monitored with non-contact infrared thermometer (as used for monitoring human body temperature under COVID circumstances) and records be maintained for any major deviations. The temperature is to be in the range of 35°C to 59°C. Treated leachate / water to be sprayed on the waste when rise in temperature is observed

at the bioremediation site. Suitable mechanism to be in place. Installation of CCTV cameras at the site and provision of fencing & frequent patrolling to be done for checking unauthorized entry at dumpsite

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

SPCBs/PCCs are hereby directed to submit action taken report within 15 days for Action Point listed at (v) above. Action taken report for Points (i-iv) to be provided within thirty days of receipt of these Directions


  
 (Naresh Pal Gangwar)  
 Chairman

Copy to:

1. **Additional Secretary (CP Division)** : for information please  
**Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change,**  
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,  
 New Delhi - 110003
2. **DH-IT Division, CPCB** : for uploading on website please

  
 (Prashant Gargava)  
 Member Secretary

o/c

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

No. SEE (HQ-3)/2022/...1340-52

Dated.....14/9/22

1353-1509  
Regd

To

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Endst no.....1508-34

Through e-mail

Dated.....14/9/22

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

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

DA/- As above

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



No. ....805....

Dated. ...19/7/22...

To

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ - 147001

Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala - 147001

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- i. solid waste continued to be dumped at these dumpsites.
- ii. Fire incidents have been reported at locations where fresh waste is being dumped.
- iii. Inaccessible slopes of garbage were observed
- iv. No standard operating plan in place for prevention and management of Fresh dumpsite fires.
- v. Cause of fire incident reported is excess release of Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) gas due to anaerobic decomposition of the bio-degradable organic waste, high temperature and dry atmospheric conditions.
- vi. Partial fencing with barbed wire provided at the boundary observed.
- vii. Police patrolling the site not observed.
- viii. No fire tender observed at site.
- ix. Anti-Smog Gun have been installed which were not found in use;

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

ਮਨੋਜ ਪਾਲ ਵਿਗ  
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)  
 Chairman  
 Dated 19/7/22

Endst.No. 806

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

ਮਨੋਜ ਪਾਲ ਵਿਗ  
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)  
 Chairman  
 Dated 19/7/22

Endst.No. 807

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

ਮਨੋਜ ਪਾਲ ਵਿਗ  
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)  
 Chairman  
 Dated 19/7/22

Endst.No. 808-34

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

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

ਮਨੋਜ ਪਾਲ ਵਿਗ  
 (Prof. (Dr.) Adarsh Pal Vig)  
 Chairman





# Municipal Corporation Amritsar

C- Block Ranjeet Avenue Amritsar, Punjab-143001 Phone No: - 0183-2502339

No: -

Date:

**From the office of Medical Officer of Health Municipal Corporation Amritsar**

Subject: - Reason of fire incident happened at night of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May-2024

Bhagtanwala dumping site is only one operational dumping site of Amritsar, fresh waste is also dumped along with legacy waste. The concessionaire has constructed the composting pad of approximately 1.5 Acres for processing of fresh wet waste. The waste to energy plant of 10 Megawatt production capacity is proposed for construction by the concessionaire (M/s Amritsar MSW Limited) at Bhagtanwala dumping site.

Due to dumping of fresh waste the emission of methane gas takes place within the limit of its lower explosive limit (LEL) value. At the night of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May-2024 the emission of methane gas might have exceeded its lower explosive limit (LEL) value and due to the excessive heat on that day the fire incident took place.

It is worth to mention that none of such fire incident had taken place before the night of 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May-2024, and Municipal Corporation will take appropriate steps to prevent this type of incident in future.

*Pal Singh*  
15/7/2024

Senior Assistant manager SWM  
Municipal Corporation Amritsar

**Annexure-VIII****Photographs taken by CPCB Team during Site Visit:**

 <p>CPCB, RD, Chandigarh 24.06.2024 13:23 31.65628, 74.86345 (±17m) Altitude: 212m MV47+G98, Gumtala Sub Urban, C Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar</p>	 <p>CPCB, RD, Chandigarh 24.06.2024 10:51 31.6017, 74.87674 (±10m) Altitude: 201m Ishwar Nagar, Amritsar, Amritsar Cantt</p>
<p>Meeting along with MC commissioner &amp; PPCB at MC Office, Amritsar</p>	<p>View of Bhagtanwala dumpsite</p>
 <p>CPCB, RD, Chandigarh Fresh waste 24.06.2024 10:37 31.60181, 74.87578 (±7m) Altitude: 204m Ishwar Nagar, Amritsar, Amritsar Cantt</p>	 <p>CPCB, RD, Chandigarh 24.06.2024 10:37 31.60188, 74.87544 (±2m) Altitude: 204m Ishwar Nagar, Amritsar, Amritsar Cantt</p>
<p>View of fresh waste at Bhagtanwala dumpsite</p>	<p>View of machinery at Bhagtanwala dumpsite</p>
 <p>CPCB, RD, Chandigarh Compactor 24.06.2024 11:39 31.60465, 74.87685 (±1200m) Altitude: 202m Guru Ram Das Nagar, Himatpura, Amritsar, Amritsar Cantt</p>	 <p>CPCB, RD, Chandigarh Tromel 24.06.2024 11:37 31.60174, 74.87619 (±4m) Altitude: 202m Ishwar Nagar, Amritsar, Amritsar Cantt</p>
<p>View of Compactors at Bhagtanwala dumpsite</p>	<p>View of Trommels at Bhagtanwala dumpsite</p>



Ballistic separator at Bhagtanwala dumpsite

View of bio gradable waste at Bhagtanwala dumpsite in open



View of rag pickers sit on upper side of Bhagtanwala dumpsite in back side

View of Bhagtanwala MSW dumpsite near road side



View of broken boundary of Bhagtanwala dumpsite near Village Mulechak side



View of stagnated leachate at Bhagtanwala dumpsite



View of sewer line Chamber adjacent at Bhagtanwala dumpsite for discharged untreated leachate effluent



View of fire machine stationed at Bhagtanwala dumpsite



View of newly developed Bio compost pit at Chhabal Road dumpsite



View of waste weighing machine for Concessionaire operated vehicles



View of fresh waste loaded truck uncovered

View of Chhabal road MSW dumpsite and stationed fire machines