

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

Appeal No. 47 of 2026

(IA no. 317 of 2026)

Hind Samachar Limited through its Authorized Signatory Ashok Kumar

..... Applicant

Versus

Punjab Pollution Control Board

.... Respondents

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17. Proof of service

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Date: 16-7-2026

Place: Jalandhar



Satyajet Attri
(Er. Satyajet Singh Attri)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
- Regional Office, Jalandhar
(On behalf of respondent PPCB)

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Short reply by way of affidavit of Er. Satyajeet Singh Attri,
Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar on behalf of respondent Punjab
Pollution Control Board.

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

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH



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- 1) That the above-mentioned appeal has been filed by the appellant u/s 16 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 against the order dated 07.04.2026 passed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board wherein the Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs. 5,01,79,688/- (Rs. Five Crores One Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Eight only) has been imposed upon the appellant for violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. It is alleged in the appeal that the impugned order has been passed by the Board without giving any prior show cause notice or granting any opportunity of hearing to the appellant on the question of imposition of Environmental Compensation.
- 2) That the matter was considered by this Hon'ble Tribunal and vide order dated 23.04.2026, the appeal was admitted with direction that till the next date of hearing subject to deposit of 50% of the amount of EC imposed by the impugned order, within a period of four weeks, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stayed. The order dated 23.04.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal is reproduced herein below:

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"1. By this appeal filed under Section 16 of the NGT Act, 2010, appellant has questioned the order of the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) dated 07.04.2026, imposing the environmental compensation of Rs. 5,01,79,688/- (Rupees Five Crores One Lakh Seventy-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Eight Only).

2. IA No. 317/2026 has been filed by the appellant praying for the stay.

3. The submission of the Sr. Counsel for the appellant is that the impugned order has been passed without giving any show-cause notice concerning imposition of environmental compensation. Therefore, it is a case, where the principals of natural justice have been violated on this.

4. Learned counsel for the respondent PPCB though has admitted that no specific show-cause for imposition of EC was given but in pursuance to the show-cause notice issued for violation, the hearing took place, wherein the issue of environmental compensation was considered and in the proceedings dated 19.02.2026, the environmental compensation was calculated and thereafter the impugned order has been passed imposition of EC.

5. Learned Sr. counsel for the appellant has categorically stated that in the minutes of the meeting dated 19.02.2026, there was no participation of the appellant or its representative and the calculation has been done in the absence of the appellant.

6. In such circumstances, we admit the appeal and direct that till the next date of hearing, subject to deposit of 50% of the amount of EC imposed by the impugned order, within a period of four weeks, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stay.

7. The respondent is directed to produce the original record leading to passing of impugned order at the time of hearing of the appeal.

8. Learned counsel for the respondent seeks four weeks' time to file the reply. Rejoinder, if any, can be filed by the appellant within two weeks thereafter.

9. List for hearing 22.07.2026."



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- 3) That in compliance to the orders dated 23.04.2026, the appellant has deposited 50% of the Environmental Compensation at @ Rs.2,50,89,844/- in the account of the Punjab Pollution Control Board on 21.05.2026 out of the total amount of Environmental Compensation of Rs. Rs. 5,01,79,688/- (Rs. Five Crores One Lakh Seventy-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Eighty-Eight only). The appellant has informed the Board vide letter dated 21.05.2026, a copy of which is enclosed as **Annexure R/1**.
- 4) That in reply to the contention raised by the appellant that the principles of natural justice have been violated and the impugned order has been passed without giving any show cause notice concerning the imposition of Environmental Compensation, it is submitted that the petitioner was extended an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026 with the issuance a notice u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 vide letter no.378 dated 29.01.2026 and notice u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026. A copy of letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/2** and a copy letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/3**. The hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 was attended by Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey authorized signatory alongwith Sh. Anmol Rai Garg, Advocate, Sh. Pranshu Goyal, Advocate and Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocate on behalf of the appellant. After hearing the representatives of the appellant industry, officers of the Board and considering the material aspects of the case, the Chairperson of the Board has decided to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 separately wherein decision for imposition of Environmental Compensation was also taken. The relevant decisions taken with regard to the imposition of Environmental Compensation in reference to notice under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 are reproduced below.



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"2. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall assess the Environmental Compensation to be imposed upon the industry from the date of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from the EC Verification Committee (constituted by the Board for evaluation of Environmental Compensation) and ensure to issue orders in this regard.

3. If the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation has to be imposed jointly under the Air (Prevention and Control of

Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, the EC Verification Committee may consider the same in consultation with the concerned Regional Office."

- 5) That the Environmental Compensation Rs. 5,01,79,688/- was thereafter imposed by the EC Verification Committee for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026 in accordance with the formula and methodology evolved by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. Hence, the contention of the appellant is denied being incorrect that the principles of natural justice have been violated by the respondent Punjab Pollution Control Board. However, specific notice was not issued before the issuance of order no. 131 dated 07.04.2026 for the imposition of Environmental Compensation.
- 6) That the brief facts of the case that lead to the imposition of Environmental Compensation upon the appellant industry are enumerated herein below
 - a) In order to protect and improve the environment and for prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property and maintaining or resorting the wholesomeness of water and to preserve the quality of air, the Parliament of India had enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and certain rules under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and all these Laws are collectively and severally being referred to as the Environmental Laws.
 - b) The Punjab Pollution Control Board being the prescribed authority is implementing the provisions of the Environmental Laws i.e. the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made there under in the State of Punjab.
 - c) The industrial units, operations and processes including the printing presses are required to obtain the Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) from the Punjab Pollution Control Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and to comply with environmental norms prescribed thereunder.



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- d) M/s Hind Samachar Ltd. situated at G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar is a large-scale red category unit (printing press) and was granted consent to operate by the Punjab Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 24.05.2016 having validity upto 31.03.2020. The industry has not obtained the renewal of consents to operate of the Board under the said Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after the expiry of the consents on 31.03.2020.
- e) The industry (printing press) was visited by the officer of the Board on 27.02.2025. The industry was not in operation at that time but it was observed by the visiting officers that the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers and has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit, as such effluent samples could not be collected during the visit. The industry was otherwise operating the printing press without obtaining the valid consents to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board.
- f) The Board had issued show cause notices to the industry for violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 from time to time vide office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021 (**Annexure R/4**); 974 dated 22.06.2022 (**Annexure R/5**); 1980 dated 26.04.2024 (**Annexure R/6**) and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 (**Annexure R/7**) but the industry has failed to submit any reply to the show cause notices. The industry was thus violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and was operating the unit (printing press) without the valid consents to operate of the Board.
- g) Accordingly, a show cause notice was again issued to the industry for violation of the provisions of above said Statutes vide letter no. 2643 dated 28.05.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025. A copy of letter no.2643 dated 28.05.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure R/8**. However, no one on behalf of the industry attended the hearing before the Senior



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Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025.

- h) Considering the non-appearance of any representative of the industry before the Senior Environmental Engineer on 10.06.2025, another show cause notice was issued to the industry vide letter no. 2840 dated 10.06.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer of the Board at Jalandhar on 20.06.2025. A copy of letter no. 2840 dated 10.06.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure R/9**. The hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 20.06.2025 was attended by Sh. Kultar Krishan, Admin In-charge. The representative stated that the industry will apply for the consent to operate within one month. After hearing the representative of the industry and considering the material facts, the Senior Environmental Engineer decided that the industry shall apply for the consents under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days and Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report/process the application on merit. The proceedings of hearing held on 20.06.2025 were conveyed to the industry vide letter no. 311 dated 30.06.2025 for compliance. A copy of letter no. 311 dated 30.06.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure R/10**. However, the industry has failed to apply for the consents to operate of the Board.
- i) Considering the case, the Competent Authority of the Board has constituted a team of officers for performing a surprise visit to check the environmental compliances of the printing press namely Hind Samachar Limited at Jalandhar. When the officers of the Board reached the premises of the industry (printing press) on 15.01.2026 for performing the surprise visit, the representative of the industry (printing press) came outside the gate of the industry and inquired about the purpose from the team members. The team members disclosed their identity and requested the representative of industry (printing press) to open the gate for inspection. The representative informed that he will open the gate after the approval from the management and went inside and closed the gate. The team members knocked the door many times and waited outside the main gate of the industry for about 10-15 minutes, but the gate of the industry was not opened and the visiting team was not allowed to perform the official surprise



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inspection. Considering the circumstances, the visiting team had requested the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) in writing on 15.01.2026 to provide police protection so as to enable the team to perform the visit to the premises of the industry (printing press). Accordingly, a Police team comprising the Senior Superintendent of Police, two Deputy Superintendents of Police and other Police officials reached the site and the main gate of the industry was opened after a time period of about 4 hours.

j) Thereafter, the team of officers performed the visit alongwith Police officials. The observations of the visiting team are mentioned below.

- i. The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not in operation.
- ii. The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.
- iii. The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near the ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste category 33.1.
- iv. The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.
- v. The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.
- vi. The effluent samples were collected during the visit and the samples were sent to Head Office, Laboratory of the Board at Patiala for analysis.

k) In view of the above facts and violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was issued to the industry vide letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 and a notice to issue directions u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued vide letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 within an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026. A



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copy of letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/2** and a copy of letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/3**.

1) Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorizes Signatory of M/s Hind Samachar Ltd. Jalandhar attended the hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 alongwith Sh. Anmol Rai Garg, Sh. Pranshu Goyal and Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocates. The representatives of the industry submitted a written reply which was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply and offered their comments by taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers during visit on 15.01.2026. The comments offered by the officers of the Board are mentioned below.

- a. The industry has earlier obtained the consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 under red category. Now as per the latest categorization of Central Pollution Control Board, the industry is covered in orange category. The categorization does not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Sections 24 and 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- b. The plea of oversight cannot be made applicable to the environmental compliances which is a serious issue. After the expiry of the consents to operate on 31.03.2020, the industry remained operational in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The consent to operate application filed on 23.01.2026 was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
- c. May be, the industrial unit was not in operation at the specific time of visit by the officers of the Board but the industry has to make compliances of the environmental laws. It is admitted that the printing press operates at night and not during the day. The representatives of the



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industry were present during the inspection by the team of officers of the Board. The facts relating to the registration of FIR and subsequent stay granted by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CRM-M no. 5521 of 2026 are a matter of record.

- d. (i) The fact is admitted by the industry that the printing press is being operated during night hours.
- (ii) During inspection, the DG set was found installed adequate without acoustic canopy and inadequate stack height which constitute a violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. *Any future intent or assurance cannot substitute the violation of law found at the time of visit. The operation of the DG set without declared capacity, requisite emission control measures, and adequate stack height constitutes a violation of the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The statement made by the industry shows that they will make compliance of adequate height.*
- (iii) Used plastic containers containing ink/chemicals fall within the scope of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and is categorized as hazardous waste of category 33.1. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas within the industrial unit and the unit did not possess the mandatory authorization under Rule 6 of the said Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Hence, the violation of the provisions of Rule 6, 8 and 9 of HOWM Rules, 2016 is clearly established.
- (iv) The statement made by the industry defeats the very purpose of the surprise visit. During inspection on 15.01.2026, non-operation of ETP was established and analysis of effluent being discharged from its collection tank revealed parameters exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot override the sampling conducted



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by the Board officers. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026.

(v) The unit has not maintained any environmentally sound adequate arrangement for disposal of effluent in the premises of the industrial unit. The industry cannot enter into an agreement with any person for collection, storage and disposal of effluent.

(vi) During inspection on 15.01.2026 effluent samples were collected by the team of officers, the analysis result of which reveals that the parameters are exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot negate the sampling conducted by the Board officers. Moreover, any post-inspection remedial actions or reports after 15.01.2026 do not regularize the violations already committed. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026. The analysis result of the sample collected on 15.01.2026 is being conveyed to the industry separately.

(vii) Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. The industry had remained in operation and is being operated without the consents since 31.03.2020 i.e. for about six years, thereby violating the provisions of Sections 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Filing of an application for obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 does not in any manner construed to be the grant of the consents to



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operate.

- e. Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
- f. The categorization of industry does not give any relaxation with regard to the compliance of environmental norms. The Orange category industries are also of polluting nature and the printing press carries pollution index of 56.5. The orange category of industry is also mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The industry is operating in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and it is a fit case to exercise powers u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- g. The contention of the industry is totally wrong hence denied that the Punjab Pollution Control Board has been maliciously targeting and taking actions against the Punjab Kesari Group. In the present case, the printing press is operating without the mandatory consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and for the last about six years the industry is intentionally and *deliberately causing pollution*. The facts relating to the passing of order dated 20.01.2026 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP bearing Diary No. 3871 of 2026 filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the orders dated 23.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in Civil Writ Petition no. 1298 of 2026 and Civil Writ Petition no. 940 of 2026 and further orders dated 29.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are a matter of record and are being complied by the Board. The Jagat Vijay Printers is



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operating the unit in compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

m) During the course of hearing (held on 09.02.2026) the officers of the Board apprised that the Head Office Laboratory of the Board at Patiala has released the analysis report of the samples collected from the premises of the industry on 15.01.2026. As per the analysis report issued by Head office Laboratory of the Board vide letter no. 2413 Dated 04.02.2026 various parameters such as oil and grease @ > 100 mg/ltr, TSS @ 46400 mg/ltr, BOD @ 18500 mg/ltr, COD @ 158000 mg/ltr, were found beyond the permissible limits of general standards for discharge of environmental pollutants onto land for irrigation (oil and grease - 10 mg/ltr, TSS -200 mg/ltr, BOD -100 mg/ltr, COD -250 mg/ltr). A copy of letter no. 2413 dated 04.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/11**.

n) After hearing the parties and examining the record, it was observed by the Competent Authority that the printing press is admittedly being operated for a long period of about six years intentionally and deliberately without the consents to operate of the Board since 31.03.2020 in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted action by the Board against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect and is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the consent to operate of the Board under Section 25 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 is an offence punishable with imprisonment.

9 The statement of the industry was not correct that seven days' notice was issued by the Board. The industry was and is not adhering to any environmental norms and was/is causing environmental pollution intentionally and deliberately. In view of these facts, ten days' notice was issued to the industry for hearing (notice was issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing was held on 09.02.2026) and the same is justified otherwise the case was fit for issuance of closure directions without any opportunity.

It was further observed that the industry has also prevented the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from



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inspecting the industrial unit to check the compliance of environmental norms. Such an action and behaviour of the project proponent is not appreciated. It is relevant to mention here that all the members/officers, officials of the Board when acting or purporting to act in the discharge of their official duties are public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code according to Section 50 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and Section 24 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. The Project Proponent in fact has restrained the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from performing their official duty. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the district Police for protection to perform the visit to check the environmental compliance. This exercise has wasted the valuable time and resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department. The Project Proponent has portrayed himself as a victim of the situation but in fact the Project Proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended as well as Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended intentionally and deliberately. The disclosure of the analysis report by the officers of the Board (of the samples of effluent collected during the inspection of the industry on 15.01.2026) is also not favourable. The analysis report reveals that various parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The written submissions given by the representatives of the industry have been considered and found not appropriate.



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It was further observed that the case is fit to invoke the provisions of the Section 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024 and under Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024 for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to the printing press at Ludhiana) the Competent Authority decided to impose Environmental Compensation upon the industry on the basis of Polluter Pays Principle for degradation of environment for the period of violation since the industry is

operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 upto the date of hearing. The Polluter Pays Principle has been decided to be the part of the environmental laws of the country by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India without any specific statute. Apart from the imposition of environmental compensation, the industry is also liable for appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024.

o) It is relevant to brought on record that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has considered the Principles of Precaution, Sustainable development and Polluter Pay's and decided to strictly implement the same. The decisions so taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are summarized herein below:

- i. The concept of precautionary principle was considered in *M.C Mehta versus Union of India* and others and vide judgment dated 11.10.1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that the Precautionary Principle has been accepted as a part of the Law of the land.
- ii. The concept of sustainable development was considered in *M.C Mehta versus Union of India* and others (1997) 2 SCC 353 and it was decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that the development is essential for the economy of the country but at the same time the environment and eco systems have to be protected.
- iii. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also considered the concept of Polluter Pay's Principle in *Indian Council for Enviro Legal Action and others v/s Union of India* and others (1996) 3 SCC 212 para 16, *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v/s Union of India* (1996) 5 SCC 647 para 12-18 and held that Polluter Pay's Principle is accepted principle and part of environmental law of the country without even specific statute.



9

p) The proceedings of the personal hearing held before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 were conveyed to the

industry vide letter no.722 dated 17.2.2026 under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and vide letter no. 720 dated 17.2.2026 Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. A copy of letter no. 722 dated 17.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/12** and a copy of letter no. 720 dated 17.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/13**.

- q) In compliance to the decisions of the personal hearing held on 09.02.2026, the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar has jointly calculated the amount of environmental compensation for the period of violation from (01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in consultation with the EC verification committee and referred the case to the EC verification committee.
- r) The EC verification committee constituted by the Board for evaluating the Environmental Compensation to be imposed upon defaulting industrial units, Urban Local Bodies, Health Care Facilities and Other establishment has considered the case of M/s Hind Samachar Limited, G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar in its meeting held on 19.02.2026. The EC verification committee has calculated the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026 (2141 days) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in accordance with the formula and methodology evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and adopted by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. The calculation carried out by the EC verification committee is tabulated below:



16 JUL 2026

Particulars	Values
EC	$PI \times N \times R \times S \times LF$
PI	50 Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981
N	2141 From 31.03.2020 to 09.02.2026
R	250 As suggested in case of violation
S	1.5 Large scale unit
LF	1.25 For Jalandhar having population 2.19 million
EC	$50 \times 2141 \times 250 \times 1.5 \times 1.25 = \text{Rs. } 5,01,79,687.50/-$ say Rs. 5,01,79,688/- for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026.

A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the EC verification committee held on 19.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/14**.

s) Therefore, M/s Hind Samachar Limited, G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar through its Director / Authorized Signatory was directed to deposit an amount of Rupees 5,01,79,688/- (Five Crore one Lakh Seventy nine thousand Six hundred eighty eight Rupees) as environmental compensation vide order no. 131 dated 07.04.2026 with the office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board for degrading and damaging the environment for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026 as recorded in the order herein within 15-days from the date of receipt of the order, failing which necessary action will be initiated by the Board for recovery of the amount of environmental compensation by adopting coercive measures.

t) The EC verification committee has confirmed the imposition of EC amount to Rs. 5,01,79,688/- upon the industry for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026. The calculated Environmental Compensation has been approved to be imposed by the Chairperson of the Board. Upon such imposition and approval, the orders for imposition of Environmental Compensation were issued under the signature of the Member Secretary of the Board.

u) A copy of order no. 131 dated 07.04.2026 which is under challenge in the present appeal is enclosed as **Annexure R/15**.

7) That it is relevant to mention here that after the expiry of the consent to operate on 31.03.2020, the appellant has not applied for the consents to operate of the Board upto 23.01.2026. The appellant has applied for obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 23.01.2026 and 22.04.2026 but on both the occasions, the applications for consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 were returned to the applicant due to some observations but the appellant has not attended to the said observations and had not applied for the consents to operate of the Board after 22.04.2026. There is no arbitrary rejection of the consent renewal applications as alleged by the appellant.

8) That it is further relevant to mention here that the respondent Punjab Pollution



16 JUL 2026

Control Board has not initiated or taken any other action against the appellant printing press except the imposition of Environmental Compensation which is under challenge before this Hon'ble Tribunal in the present appeal case.

- 9) That no ground as mentioned in sub para A to Z and sub para AA to NN in paragraph 34 of the appeal is made out to set aside the order passed by the Board for imposition of Environmental Compensation upon the appellant.
- 10) That the deponent may kindly be allowed to place on record the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of respondent Punjab Pollution Control Board.

Deponent



Date: 16.7.2026

Place: Jalandhar

16 JUL 2026

Satyajit Singh Attri
(Er. Satyajit Singh Attri)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Jalandhar
(On behalf of respondent PPCB)

Verification

Verified that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 10 of the above short reply by way of affidavit of the deponent are true and correct as derived from the official record. No part of the above short reply is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.

I identify the deponent who has
signed/thumb marked in my presence

Date: 16.7.2026

Place: Jalandhar

Deponent

Satyajit Singh Attri
(Er. Satyajit Singh Attri)
Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Jalandhar
(On behalf of respondent PPCB)

AFFIDAVIT ATTESTED

4
NOTARY, JALANDHAR (PB.) INDIA

16 JUL 2026

Annexure R/1

18

S/A 8
764
21/5/26

F12

21/5/26

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ARR-II

Please For your information
Please y

Date: 21.05.2026

To,

The Chairperson,

Punjab Pollution Control Board,

Jalandhar.

Sub: Compliance of order dated 23.04.2026 passed by Hon'ble NGT in Appeal No. 47 of 2026 titled 'Hind Samachar Limited v. PPCB'.

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

This is reference to the order dated 07.04.2026 passed by your office imposing Environmental Compensation of INR 5,01,79,688/- against Hind Samachar Limited, which was challenged before the Hon'ble NGT in Appeal No. 47 of 2026.

The Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 23.04.2026 had directed stay of the order dated 07.04.2026 subject to payment of 50% of the EC imposed (i.e. INR 2,50,89,844/-) to your office. Relevant part of the order is set out herein below:

"6. In such circumstances, we admit the appeal and direct that till the next date of hearing, subject to deposit of 50% of the amount of EC imposed by the impugned order, within a period of four weeks, the operation of the impugned order shall remain stay."

In respect thereof, in compliance of the order dated 23.04.2026, a sum of INR 2,50,89,844/- has been deposited today in your bank account no. 073104000152235 with IDBI Bank, by way of RTGS bearing UTR No. HDFCR52026082160991808.

This is for your information and records.

Sincerely,

For The Hind Samachar Limited

Authorized Signatory

P.P.C.B. R.O. JALANDHAR	
Received Rs.	2,50,89,844/-
Vide R/No.	40/5706-21/5/26
as	EC (under/Am)

Annexure R/2

19



Punjab Pollution Control Board

Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar

Phone No. 0181-2601612

www.ppcb.gov.in

Email ID - seppcbjal@gmail.com

No. 378

(Regd.)

Date 29/01/26

To

M/s Hind Samachar Limited,
G.T. Road, Suranassi,
Jalandhar.

Subject: Notice u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974.

Whereas it is obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain the 'consent to operate' of the Board u/s 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 21 of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, for discharge of effluent/ emission from its industrial premises and to operate the outlets;

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of the industry to install proper and adequate Water Pollution Control Device so that the concentration of various pollutants confirms to the effluent standards prescribed by the Board;

And whereas, the industry is a large-scale red category unit and the industry was granted consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 which were valid upto 31.03.2020. The Industry has not obtained for renewal of consent to operate of the Board till date.

And whereas, earlier the Industry was visited by officer of the Board on 27.02.2025 and observed that the was not in operation and the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers. The industry has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit. As such effluent samples could not be collected during visit. The industry was in operation without obtaining valid consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board till date. The industry has been issued show cause notice for the violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 vide this office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021, 974 dated 22.06.2022, 1880 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but it has failed to submit any reply till date. The industry is violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and operating the unit without valid consents of the Board with hearing before Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.6.2025 but no one from the industry attended the hearing and re-hearing fixed on 20.6.2025 wherein it was decided that:

- 1) The industry shall apply for consents under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days.
- 2) The Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report/process the application on merit.

And whereas, the subject cited industry was visited by team of officers constituted by Competent Authority of the Board on 15.1.2026 and observed that during visit, the representative of press came outside the gate and inquired about the team. The team asked the representative of press to open the gate for inspection. The representative informed that he would open the gate after the approval from the management. Thereafter, the representative went inside and gate was not opened. The team again knocked the door and waited outside the main gate for approx. 10-15 minutes, but the gate was not opened. Thereafter, the entire incident was apprised to the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority have talked to Police Authority to provide police force to the team to visit the printing press. Thereafter, the request letter has been written to the S S P (Rural), Jalandhar to provide force, so as to enable the team to visit the premises as per the order of the Competent Authority. Accordingly, the Police team (including SSP, two DSP & other Police officials) reached at the site and they have opened the main gate after a time period of about 4 hours.

And whereas, the industry was inspected alongwith Police officials and during visit it was observed as under: -

1. The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not in operation.
2. The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.

3. The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near the ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste category 33.1.
4. The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.
5. The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.
6. The effluent samples were collected from the collection tank in the presence of Police officials and same were sent to the Board's Water lab, Patiala for analysis.
7. The representative of the industry has not produced any document regarding CTE/CTO of the Board under the provisions of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981.

And whereas, the Industry is violating various provisions of Water Act 1974 operating the unit without valid consents of the Board.

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 as amended in 1988 after affording an opportunity of personal hearing.

Now, therefore, Punjab Pollution Control Board in exercise of the powers conferred upon it u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention & control of Pollution) Act, 1974 proposes to issue following directions:

1. That the industry shall stop operating all outlets & stop forthwith discharging any effluent from its premises.
2. That the industry shall not restart any process/plant unless all necessary water/air pollution control measures are taken and concentration of various pollutants conforms to the effluent standards laid down by the Board for such discharges.
3. That the industry shall not restart discharging pollutants until it obtains the consent to operate of the Board u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 as amended in 1988.
4. That Punjab State Power Corporation Limited will be directed to disconnect the supply of electricity available to industry.

You are, hereby, given an opportunity of personal hearing to file objections, if any, on the proposed directions before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.2.2026 11:00 AM in his office at Vatavaran Bhawan, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Nabha Road, Head Office, Patiala, to explain the position, failing which action as per provisions of the Water Act 1974 shall be taken without giving any further notice/opportunity.

The owner/ Director/ Partner or senior functionary with proper Authority letter shall attend the hearing.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority of the Board.

For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No. 379

Dated 29/1/26

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar for information with request to get the copy of the notice delivered to the industry through special messenger/ e-mail/ WhatsApp and send the receipt of the same to this office and also ensure its presence on the said date and time of hearing.

For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Annexure R/3



Punjab Pollution Control Board



21

Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar

Phone No. 0181-2601612

www.ppcb.gov.in

Email ID - seeppcbjal@gmail.com

No. 380

(Regd.)

Date 29/01/2026

To

M/s Hind Samachar Limited,
G.T. Road, Suranassi,
Jalandhar.

Subject: Notice u/s 31-A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987.

Whereas it is obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain the 'consent to operate' of the Board u/s 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 21 of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, for discharge of effluent/ emission from its industrial premises and to operate the outlets;

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of the industry to install proper and adequate Air Pollution Control Device so that the concentration of various pollutants conforms to the emission standards prescribed by the Board;

And whereas, the industry is a large-scale red category unit and the industry was granted consent to operate under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 which were valid upto 31.03.2020. The Industry has not obtained renewal of consent to operate of the Board under the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 till date.

And whereas, earlier the Industry was visited by officer of the Board on 27.02.2025 and observed that the was not in operation and the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers. The industry has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit. As such effluent samples could not be collected during visit. The industry was in operation without obtaining valid consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board till date. The industry has been issued show cause notice for the violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 vide this office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021, 974 dated 22.06.2022, 1980 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but it has failed to submit any reply till date. The industry was violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and operating the unit without valid consents of the Board with hearing before Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.6.2025 but no one from the industry attended the hearing and re-hearing fixed on 20.6.2025 wherein it was decided that:

- 1) The industry shall apply for consents under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days.
- 2) The Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report/process the application on merit.

And whereas, the subject cited industry was visited by team of officers constituted by Competent Authority of the Board on 15.1.2026 and observed that during visit, the representative of press came outside the gate and inquired about the team. The team asked the representative of press to open the gate for inspection. The representative informed that he would open the gate after the approval from the management. Thereafter, the representative went inside and gate was not opened. The team again knocked the door and waited outside, the main gate for approx. 10-15 minutes, but the gate was not opened. Thereafter, the entire incident was apprised to the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority have talked to Police Authority to provide police force to the team to visit the printing press. Thereafter, the request letter has been written to the S S P (Rural), Jalandhar to provide force, so as to enable the team to visit the premises as per the order of the Competent Authority. Accordingly, the Police team (including SSP, two DSP & other Police officials) reached at the site and they have opened the main gate after a time period of about 4 hours.

And whereas, the industry was inspected alongwith Police officials and during visit it was observed as under: -

1. The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not in operation.
2. The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room.

which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.

3. The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near the ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste category 33.1.
4. The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.
5. The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.
6. The effluent samples were collected from the collection tank in the presence of Police officials and same were sent to the Board's Water lab, Patiala for analysis.
7. The representative of the industry has not produced any document regarding CTE/CTO of the Board under the provisions of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981.

And whereas, the industry is violating various provisions of Air Act 1981 operating the unit without valid consents of the Board Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 after affording an opportunity of personal hearing.

Now, therefore, Punjab Pollution Control Board in exercise of the powers conferred upon it u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 proposes to issue following directions:

1. That the industry shall stop operating and discharging any emissions from its premises.
2. That the industry shall not restart any process/plant unless all necessary air pollution control measures are taken and concentration of various pollutants conforms to the emissions standards laid down by the Board for such emissions.
3. That the industry shall not restart discharging/emitting pollutants until it obtains the consent to operate of the Board u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987.
4. That Punjab State Power Corporation Limited will be directed to disconnect the supply of electricity available to industry.

You are, hereby, given an opportunity of personal hearing to file objections, if any, on the proposed directions before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.2.2026 11:00 AM in his office at Vatavaran Bhawan, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Nabha Road, Head Office, Patiala, to explain the position, failing which action as per provisions of the Air Act 1981 shall be taken without giving any further notice/ opportunity.

The owner/ Director/ Partner or senior functionary with proper Authority letter shall attend the hearing.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority of the Board.


For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No. 381

Dated 29/01/2026

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar for information with request to get the copy of the notice delivered to the industry through special messenger/ e-mail/ WhatsApp and send the receipt of the same to this office and also ensure its presence on the said date and time of hearing.


For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
Annexure R/4
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Mr 23

RO/2021/No. 660
To

Dated: 17/02/21

M/s Hind Samachar Ltd,
G.T. Road Suranassi,
Jalandhar.

Sub: Show cause notice for violations of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Whereas, it is obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain the consent to establish (NOC) u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 before establishing / expansion of the industry.

And whereas, it is also obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain consent to operate an outlet under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for operation of the industry.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to install proper and adequate pollution control devices so as to ensure that the concentration of various pollutants in effluent emissions being discharged by industry, conforms to the effluent/emission standards as prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry was granted consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 which was valid upto 31.03.2020. Thereafter, the industry failed to apply for renewal the consents. Thus, the industry is in operation without consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 44 of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974- "Whoever contravenes the provision of section 25 or section 26 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than [one year and six months] but which may extended to six years and with fine".

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 37 (1) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981- "Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of section 21 or section 22 or directions issued under section 31A, shall, in respect of each such failure, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year and six months but which may extended to six years and with fine, and in case the failure continues, with an additional fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which such failure continues after the conviction for the first such failure".

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action against the industry u/s 44 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 37 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after affording an opportunity of personal hearing.

You are, therefore, given an opportunity to show cause within 07 days in writing or person before the undersigned as to why proposed action should not be taken against you, failing which action under the said Rules will be initiated against the industry without any further notice/opportunity.

Environmental Engineer



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Annexure R/5

24

RO-1/2022/No. 974

Dated: 22-06-2022

To

M/s Hind Samachar Ltd,
G.T Road, Suranussi,
Jalandhar.

Sub: Show cause notice for violations of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Whereas, It is obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain the consent to establish (NOC) u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 before establishing / expansion of the industry.

And whereas, it is also obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain consent to operate an outlet under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for operation of the industry.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to install proper and adequate pollution control devices so as to ensure that the concentration of various pollutants in effluent/ emissions being discharged by industry, conforms to the effluent/emission standards as prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry was granted consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 valid upto 31.03.2020. Thereafter, the industry failed to apply for renewal the consents. Thus, the industry is in operation without consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 44 of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974- **"Whoever contravenes the provision of section 25 or section 26 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than [one year and six months] but which may extended to six years and with fine".**

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 37 (1) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981- **"Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of section 21 or section 22 or directions issued under section 31A, shall, in respect of each such failure, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year and six months but which may extended to six years and with fine, and in case the failure continues, with an additional fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which such failure continues after the conviction for the first such failure".**

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action against the industry u/s 44 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 37 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after affording an opportunity of personal hearing.

You are, therefore, given an opportunity to show cause within 07 days in writing or person before the undersigned as to why proposed action should not be taken against you, failing which action under the said Rules will be initiated against the industry without any further notice/opportunity.


Environmental Engineer
Regional Office-1, Jalandhar



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



25

Annexure R/6

PPCB/RO-1/No...1985

Dated...26/4/2024

To

M/s HIND SAMACHAR LTD,
G.T ROAD, G.T ROAD, SURANUSI,
JALANDHAR.

Sub: Show cause notice for violations of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Whereas, it is obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain the consent to establish (NOC) u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 before establishing / expansion of the industry.

And whereas, it is also obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain consent to operate an outlet under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for operation of the industry.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to install proper and adequate pollution control devices so as to ensure that the concentration of various pollutants in effluent/ emissions being discharged by industry, conforms to the effluent/emission standards as prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry is in operation without valid consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 44 of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974- "Whoever contravenes the provision of section 25 or section 26 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than [one year and six months] but which may extended to six years and with fine".

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 37 (1) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981- "Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of section 21 or section 22 or directions issued under section 31A, shall, in respect of each such failure, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year and six months but which may extended to six years and with fine, and in case the failure continues, with an additional fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which such failure continues after the conviction for the first such failure".

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action against the industry u/s 44 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 37 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after affording an opportunity of personal hearing.

You are, therefore, given an opportunity to show cause within 07 days in writing or person before the undersigned as to why proposed action should not be taken against you, failing which action under the said Rules will be initiated against the industry without any further notice/opportunity.

Sandeep Kumar

Environmental Engineer

ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫਤਰ, ਨਵੇਂ ਪੀ.ਐਸ.ਆਈ.ਈ.ਸੀ ਵਾਟਰ ਟੈਂਕ, ਫੋਕਲ ਪੁਆਇੰਟ, ਜਲੰਧਰ।

REGIONAL OFFICE, NEAR PSIEC WATER TANK, FOCAL POINT, JALANDHAR

Phone: 0181-2600079 E-mail : eerojalandhar@gmail.com Web: www.ppcb.gov.in



Annexure R/7

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



26

PPCB/RO-1/No. 4486

Dated 18/9/2024

To

M/s HIND SAMACHAR LTD,
G.T ROAD, SURANUSI,
JALANDHAR

Sub: Show cause notice for violations of the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Whereas, it is obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain the consent to establish (NOC) u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 before establishing / expansion of the industry.

And whereas, it is also obligatory on the part of the industry to obtain consent to operate an outlet under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for operation of the industry.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to install proper and adequate pollution control devices so as to ensure that the concentration of various pollutants in effluent/ emissions being discharged by industry, conforms to the effluent/emission standards as prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry is in operation without valid consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 44 of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974- "Whoever contravenes the provision of section 25 or section 26 shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than [one year and six months] but which may extended to six years and with fine".

And whereas, as per the provisions of section 37 (1) of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981- "Whoever fails to comply with the provisions of section 21 or section 22 or directions issued under section 31A, shall, in respect of each such failure, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than one year and six months but which may extended to six years and with fine, and in case the failure continues, with an additional fine which may extend to five thousand rupees for every day during which such failure continues after the conviction for the first such failure".

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action against the industry u/s 44 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 37 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after affording an opportunity of personal hearing.

You are, therefore, given an opportunity to show cause within **07 days** in writing or person before the undersigned as to why proposed action should not be taken against you, failing which action under the said Rules will be initiated against the industry without any further notice/opportunity.

Sandeep Kumar

Environmental Engineer

ਏਜੰਸੀ ਦਫਤਰ-1, ਨੇੜੇ ਪੀ.ਐਸ.ਆਈ.ਈ.ਸੀ ਵਾਟਰ ਟੈਂਕ, ਫੋਕਲ ਪੁਆਇੰਟ, ਜਲੰਧਰ।

REGIONAL OFFICE-1, NEAR PSIEC WATER TANK, FOCAL POINT, JALANDHAR

Phone: 0181-2600079 E-mail: eerojaladhar@gmail.com Web: www.ppcb.gov.in



Annexure R/8

Punjab Pollution Control Board

Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar
 Phone No. 0181-2801612 www.ppcb.gov.in Email ID - seppcbjal@gmail.com

Avinash Chopra
 9815166554

27

No. _____ (Regd.)
 To, _____

Date: 15.06.2025
 15.46
 29/5/25

M/s Hind Samachar Limited.
 G.T Road, Suranassi,
 Jalandhar

Subject: Show cause notice for violation of provisions under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to obtain the 'consent to establish (NOC) of the Board before setting up of new unit as well as for modernization or expansion of the industry u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, emission from its industrial premises and to operate an outlet.

Whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to obtain the 'consent to operate' of the Board u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and u/s 21 of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981, for discharge of effluent/ emission from its industrial premises and to operate an outlet.

And whereas, it is mandatory on the part of industry to install proper and adequate Water & Air Pollution Control Device so that the concentration of various pollutants conforms to the effluent/ emission standards prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry was granted consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 which were valid upto 31.03.2020. The industry has not obtained for renewal of consent to operate of the Board till date.

And whereas, the industry was visited by officer of the Board on 27.02.2025 and observed that the was not in operation and the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers. The industry has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit. As such effluent samples could not be collected during visit. The industry was in operation without obtaining valid consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board till date.

And whereas, the industry has been issued show cause notice for the violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide this office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021, 974 dated 22.06.2022, 1980 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but it has failed to submit any reply till date.

And whereas, the industry is violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and operating the unit without valid consents of the Board.

And whereas, it has now been proposed to initiate action against the industry for violations of the provisions of Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981, after affording an opportunity of show-cause notice for violation.

You are, hereby, given an opportunity of personal hearing to file objections, if any, on the proposed notice before the Senior Environmental Engineer, in his office at Zonal Office, Near PSIEC Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar on 10.6.2025 at 11:00 AM personally to explain the position, failing which action as per provision of Water Act, 1974 & Air Act, 1981 shall be taken without giving any further notice/ opportunity.

Endst. No. 2644

For Senior Environmental Engineer
 Dated 15.06.25

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar for information with request to get the copy of the notice delivered to the industry through special messenger/ e-mail/ WhatsApp and send the receipt of the same to this office.

For Senior Environmental Engineer



Punjab Pollution Control Board

Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar

Phone No. 0181-2601612

www.ppcb.gov.in

Email ID - seeppcbial@gmail.com

No. _____ (Regd.)

To,

M/s Hind Samachar Limited.
G.T Road, Suranassi,
Jalandhar.

Date

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫਤਰ-1, ਜਲੰਧਰ
ਡਾਇਰੀ ਨੰ: 1.7.108
ਮਿਤੀ 12/6/25

Subject: Show cause notice for violation of provisions under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Ref: Board letter no. 2643 dated 28.5.2025

It is intimated that opportunity of personal hearing was given to industry before Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.6.2025, but no one from the industry attended the hearing. The matter has been considered by the Competent Authority and has decided to give another opportunity of hearing to the industry.

As such, you are, hereby given another opportunity of hearing, before the Senior Environmental Engineer, in his office at Zonal Office, Near PSIEC Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar on 20.6.2025 at 11:30 AM, to explain the position, failing which the action as per provisions of the Acts shall be confirmed without giving any further notice/ opportunity.

Endst. No.

2871

For Senior Environmental Engineer

Dated

10/6/25

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office-1, Jalandhar for information with request to get the copy of the notice delivered to the industry through special messenger/ e-mail/ WhatsApp and send the receipt of the same to this office.

For Senior Environmental Engineer



Annexure R/10 Punjab Pollution Control Board



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Phone No. 0181-2601612

www.ppcb.gov.in

Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar
Email ID - seoppcbja@gmail.com

No. 3111

(Regd.)

Date

30/6/25

To,

M/s Hind Samachar Limited.
G.T Road, Suranassi,
Jalandhar.

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing before Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 20.6.2025 in the matter for Show cause notice for violation of provisions under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

Following were present: -

On behalf of Board: - Er. Salyajeet Singh Attri EE, ZO, Jalandhar

On behalf of Industry: - Sh. Kultar Krishan, Admin Incharge.

The officer informed that the industry was granted consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 which were valid upto 31.03.2020. The industry has not obtained for renewal of consent to operate of the Board till date. The industry was visited by officer of the Board on 27.02.2025 and observed that the was not in operation and the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers. The industry has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit. As such effluent samples could not be collected during visit. The industry was in operation without obtaining valid consent to operate under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board till date. The industry has been issued show cause notice for the violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide this office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021, 974 dated 22.06.2022, 1980 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but it has failed to submit any reply till date. The industry is violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and operating the unit without valid consents of the Board with hearing before Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.6.2025 but no one from the industry attended the hearing and rehearing fixed on 20.6.2025.

During the hearing the representative of the industry submitted that they will apply for consent to operate within 1 month.

After hearing the officer of the Board, representative of the industry and considering facts on record, the Senior Environmental Engineer decided that:

- 1) The industry shall apply for consents under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days.
- 2) The Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report / process the application on merit.

Endst. No. 3112

For Senior Environmental Engineer
Dated 30/6/25

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar for information and necessary action as per the above decision.

For Senior Environmental Engineer



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ

PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Water Lab, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala

E-mail: solab2010@gmail.com



PPCB/Water Lab/. 2413

Dated: 04/02/26

To

✓ The Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Jalandhar.

1132-II

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫਤਰ-1, ਜਲੰਧਰ
ਡਾਇਰੀ ਨੰ: ਨਵੀਂ ਫਾਈਲ
ਮਿਤੀ: ਈ.ਏ.

Subject: - **Analysis report for the Effluent Samples.**

Please find enclosed herewith, Analysis Reports of effluent samples collected by your good office of the following units:

1. M/s Hind Samachar Ltd., G.T. road, Suranassi, Jalandhar.

This is for information & further necessary action, please.

DA/As per above

Environmental Engineer
(Water Laboratory)

Endst. No:.....

Dated-

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information please: -

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), Punjab Pollution Control Board, Ludhiana.
2. The Senior Environment Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Zonal Office Jalandhar.

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Environmental Engineer
(Water Laboratory)

Effluent New 2025-26




PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL LABORATORY
NABL Accredited & ISO 45001: 2018 (OH&S) certified Laboratory
WATER LAB, HEAD OFFICE, VATAVARAN BHAWAN, PATIALA, PUNJAB
Email: solab2010@gmail.com, Website: www.ppcbonline.org


TC-14678

TEST REPORT

1. Test Report No. : ED-1394/H.O. Water Lab/ Monitoring/2025-26
2. Date of Issue of Report : 04.02.2026
3. Report Sent to (Designation & Address) : Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), Ludhiana; Senior Environmental Engineer ZO-Jalandhar; and Environmental Engineer, RO Jalandhar
4. Source of Sample : M/s Hind Samachar Ltd., G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar
5. Sampling Location : Collection Tank (E-1971)
6. Sample Registration No. : E-1971
7. Date of Sample Collection : 15.01.2026
8. Name of Sample Collecting Officer : Er. Rajeev Gupta, SEE, Er. Birdevinder Singh, EE & Er. Ridham Katra, AEE
9. Date of Sample Receipt : 16.01.2026
10. Sampling Description : Effluent Sample
11. Type of Sample : Grab
12. Period of Analysis : 16.01.2026-30.01.2026
13. Sampling Method : Sample Collected by RO as per IS 17614 (Part-10): 2021
14. Document attached with Test Report, : Data Sheet
15. Sample Quantity : 5.0L (Plastic Bottles & Glass Bottle)
16. Environmental Conditions of testing : Temperature $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and Relative humidity $45 \pm 15\%$

Test Results

(Water Quality Analysis)

Sr. No.	Test Parameters	Units	Results	Test Method
			Collection Tank	
1	pH value at 25°C	-	7.1	IS 3025 Part-11
2	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	mg/l	938	IS 3025 Part-16

End of Report

Amandeep Kaur
 Name, Designation & Signature of Analyst
 Amandeep Kaur (Scientific Asst.)

Dr. Shankarjit Singh
 Name & Designation of Authorized Signatory
 Dr. Shankarjit Singh
 Asst. Scientific Officer
 (Seal & Signature)

Effluent New 2025-26



PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

CENTRAL LABORATORY

NABL Accredited & ISO 45001: 2018 (OII&S) certified Laboratory
WATER LAB. HEAD OFFICE: VATAVARAN DHAWAN, PATIALA, PUNJAB
Email: info@ppcbonline.org, Website: www.ppcbonline.org



TEST REPORT

1. Test Report No. : ED-1394/H.O. Water Lab/ Monitoring/2025-26
2. Date of Issue of Report : 04.02.2026
3. Report Sent to (Designation & Address) : Chief Environmental Engineer (Water), Ludhiana; Senior Environmental Engineer ZO-Jalandhar; and Environmental Engineer, RO Jalandhar
M/s Hind Samachar Ltd., G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar
4. Source of Sample : Collection Tank (E-1971)
5. Sampling Location : E-1971
6. Sample Registration No. : 15.01.2026
7. Date of Sample Collection : Er. Rajeev Gupta, SEE, Er. Birdevinder Singh, EE & Er. Ridham Katra, AEE
8. Name of Sample Collecting Officer : 16.01.2026
9. Date of Sample Receipt : Effluent Sample
10. Sampling Description : Grab
11. Type of Sample : 16.01.2026-30.01.2026
12. Period of Analysis : Sample Collected by RO as per IS 17614 (Part-10): 2021
13. Sampling Method : Data Sheet
14. Document attached with Test Report, : 5.0L (Plastic Bottles & Glass Bottle)
15. Sample Quantity : Temperature $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and Relative humidity $45 \pm 15\%$
16. Environmental Conditions of testing

Test Results

(Water Quality Analysis)

Sr. No.	Test Parameters	Units	Results
			Collection Tank
1	Oil & Grease	mg/l	>100
2	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/l	46400
3	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	mg/l	158000
4	Bio-Chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	mg/l	18500

End of Report

Nidhi Gupta
 Name, Designation & Signature of Analyst
 Nidhi Gupta (Junior Scientific Officer)
 Amandeep Kaur (Scientific Asst.)

Dr. Shankarjit Singh
 Name & Designation of Authorized Signatory
 Dr. Shankarjit Singh
 Asst. Scientific Officer
 (Seal & Signature)



Punjab Pollution Control Board



Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar

Phone No. 0181-2601612

www.ppcb.gov.in

Email ID - seppcbjal@gmail.com

No

122

(Regd.)

Date

17/2/24

To,

M/s Hind Samachar Limited,
G.T. Road, Suranassi,
Jalandhar

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing held on 09.02.2026 before Chairperson of the Board in reference to notice u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Following were present: -

On behalf of Board: - Dr. Lavneet Dubey, Member Secretary.
Er. R.K Ratra, CEE, Jalandhar.
Er. Samita, SEE, ZO, Jalandhar.

On behalf of Industry: - Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorized Signatory.
Sh. Anmol Rai Garg, Advocate.
Sh. Pranshu Goyal, Advocate.
Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocate.

The officers of the Board apprised that the industry namely Hind Samachar Ltd. situated at G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar is a large-scale red category unit (printing press) and was granted consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 24.05.2016 having validity upto 31.03.2020. The industry has not obtained the renewal of consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after the expiry of the consents on 31.03.2020. The industry was visited by the officer of the Board on 27.02.2025. The industry was not in operation at the time but it was observed by the visiting officer that the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers. The industry has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit, as such effluent samples could not be collected during the visit. The industry was otherwise operating without obtaining the valid consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board. The Board has issued show cause notices to the industry for the violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 from time to time vide office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021; 974 dated 22.06.2022; 1980 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but the industry has failed to submit any reply to the show cause notices. The industry was thus violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and was operating the unit (printing press) without the valid consents to operate of the Board. Accordingly, a show cause notice was issued to the industry for violation of the provisions of above said Statutes vide letter no. 2643 dated 28.05.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025. However, no one on behalf of the industry attending the hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025.

Considering the non-appearance of any representative of the industry before the Senior Environmental Engineer on 10.06.2025, another show cause notice was issued to the industry vide letter no. 2840 dated 10.06.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer of the Board at Jalandhar on 20.06.2025. The hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 20.06.2025 was attended by Sh. Kultar Krishan, Admin in-charge. The representative stated that the industry will apply for the consent to operate within one month. After hearing the representative of the industry and considering the material facts, the Senior Environmental Engineer decided that the industry shall apply for consents under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days and the Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report/process the application on merit.

The proceedings of hearing held on 20.06.2025 were conveyed to the industry vide letter no. 311 dated 30.06.2025 for compliance but the industry failed to apply for the consents to operate of the Board

Considering the case, the Competent Authority of the Board has constituted a team of officers for performing a surprise visit to check the environmental compliances of the printing press namely Hind Samachar Limited at Jalandhar. When the officers of the Board reached the premises of the industry (printing press) on 15.01.2026 for performing the surprise visit, the representative of the industry (printing press) came outside the gate of the industry and inquired about the purpose from the team members. The team members disclosed their identity and requested the representative of industry (printing press) to open the gate for inspection. The representative informed that he will open the gate after the approval from the management and went inside and closed the gate. The team knocked the door many times and waited outside the main gate of the industry for about 10-15 minutes, but the gate of the industry was not opened and the visiting team was not allowed to perform the official surprise inspection. Considering the circumstances, the visiting team had requested the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) in writing on 15.01.2026 to provide police protection so as to enable the team to perform the visit to the premises. Accordingly, a Police team comprising the SSP, two DSPs & other Police officials reached the site and the main gate of the industry was opened after a time period of about 4 hours.

Thereafter, the team of officers performed the visit alongwith Police officials. The observations of the visiting team are mentioned below:

1. The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not in operation.
2. The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.
3. The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near the ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste category 33.1.
4. The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.
5. The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.
6. The effluent samples were collected during visit from the collection tank and the samples were sent to Head Office Laboratory for analysis.

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In view of the above facts and violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was issued vide letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 and a notice to issued direction u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued vide letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 within an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026. In reference to the said notice the representatives of the industry have come to attend the hearing.

Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorized Signatory of M/s Hind Samachar Limited, Jalandhar attended the hearing alongwith Sh. Anmol Rai Garg; Sh. Pranshu Goyal and Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocates. The authorized signatory stated that despite of insufficient period of less than 07 days granted for the hearing, the industry is submitting a written reply. The reply was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply and offered their comments by taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers. The observations of the visiting team (mentioned in the notice issued to the industry), the response of the industry and the comments of the officer's present during the hearing are tabulated herein below:

Sr No.	Notice issued by the Board wherein observations were recorded.	Response of industry	Further comments of the officers of the Board.
1		As per the Central Pollution Control Board ("CPCB") Guidelines, the said industry does not fall within the red category rather falls under the orange category marked as serial no. 127 i.e. Printing Press, as evident from the Classification Circular dated 12.02.2025. A copy of the said Circular is annexed herewith as Annexure-1.	The industry has earlier obtained the consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 under red category. Now as per the latest categorization of Central Pollution Control Board, the industry is covered in orange category. The categorization do not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
2		The industry had the Consent to Operate up to 31.03.2020, due to administrative oversight the renewal of the Consent to	The plea of oversight cannot be made applicable to the environmental

		Operate was not applied. However, the Consent to Operate has been applied for on 23.01.2026 with Application ID 30995118. A copy of the same has been annexed herewith as Annexure-2.	compliances which is a serious issue. After the expiry of the consents to operate on 31.03.2020, the industry remained operational in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The consent to operate application filed on 23.01.2026 was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
3	9	In regard to your visit on 15.01.2026, it has been mentioned by the team from Punjab Pollution Control Board ("PPCB") that the press was not operational. It is to be noted that the PPCB team visited during the day which was within the non-operating hours of the press, as the press operates at night and not during the day. Moreover, during the visit, only junior-level members were present. It is pertinent to note that no representative of the establishment was present, as no notice was provided before inspection. FIR No. 12 dated 15.01.2026 was lodged based on a complaint by Shri Raj Vinder Singh i.e., Respondent No.2, Environment Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board ("PPCB"), Zonal Office Patiala. The quashing petition titled 'Avinash Chopra Vs State of Punjab' bearing No. CRM-M No. 5521 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, which granted a stay on the proceedings of the FIR added as Annexure 3.	May be, the industrial unit was not in operation at the specific time of visit by the officers of the Board but the industry has to make compliances of the environmental laws. It is admitted that the printing press operates at night and not during the day. The representatives of the industry were present during the inspection by the team of officers of the Board. The facts relating to the registration of FIR and subsequent stay granted by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CRM-M no. 5521 of 2026 are a matter of record.
4.1	The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was	It is to be noted that printing presses are operational only at night, when the newspaper is	The fact is admitted by the industry that the printing press is being

	not operation	printed.	operated during night hours.
4.2	The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.	It is to be noted the DG set of 750 KVA capacity is installed and is rarely used due to the regular supply of power to the area. The DG set with canopy and silencer with adequate stack height of 10 feet above building height will be maintained. In case any additional stack height or equipment is required the same should be specified in the condition to operate. A photo of the DG SET with adequate stack height is enclosed herewith as Annexure 4.	During inspection, the DG set was found installed without adequate acoustic canopy and inadequate stack height which constitute a violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Any future intent or assurance cannot substitute the violation of law found at the time of visit. The operation of the DG set without declared capacity, requisite emission control measures, and adequate stack height constitutes a violation of the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The statement made by the industry shows that they will make compliance of adequate height.
4.3	The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste Category 33.1	It is to be noted that these containers do not contain any hazardous waste as treated effluent is discharged from ETP. In any event, a Authorized Collection Agent has been duly contracted for any Hazardous waste. A copy of the contract is enclosed as Annexure 5. A copy of authorization is enclosed as Annexure-6. Additionally, for ink waste, which is minimal another contract is entered with authorised collection agent. A copy of the contract is enclosed as Annexure 7. A copy of authorization is enclosed as Annexure-8.	Used plastic containers containing ink/chemicals fall within the scope of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and is categorized as hazardous waste of category 33.1. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas within the industrial unit and the unit did not possess the mandatory authorization under Rule 6 of the said Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Hence, the violation of

the provisions of Rule 38
8 and 9 of HOWM Rules,
2016 is clearly
established.

4.4	The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.	The notice mentions that the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) during the visit was not in operation. The PPCB officials may visit the printing press upon intimation to see the functioning ETP. Photographs of the functioning ETP has been annexed as Annexure-9. The ETP is functional and the output treated water is being used for gardening purposes and is clear of impurities. A copy of report dated 05.02.2026 is annexed as Annexure-10.	The statement made by the industry defeats the very purpose of the surprised visit. During inspection on 15.01.2026, non-operation of the ETP was established and analysis of effluent being discharged from its collection tank revealed parameters exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot override the sampling conducted by the Board officers. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026.
4.5	The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.	Although the treated effluent is used for gardening purposes, a contract has been entered into with an authorised Collection Agent for the treatment, storage and disposal of the waste for the safe collection and disposal of the same.	The unit has not maintained any environmentally sound adequate arrangement for disposal of effluent in the premises of the industrial unit. The industry cannot enter into an agreement with any person for collection, storage and disposal of effluent.

4.6	The effluent samples were collected from the collection tank in the presence of Police officials and same were sent to the Board's Water lab, Patiala for analysis.	It is to be noted that no report of the effluent sample collected in the presence of police officials, as mentioned in the aforesaid notice, has been provided to the undersigned to date and even with the notice delivered on 3.02.2026. Section 22 (2) of the Water Act mandates a copy of the analysis result to be sent to the occupier of the establishment, which has not been done in this case till date. It is submitted that until such a report has been served and analysed by the owner of the establishment, no action/submission is to be taken against them on this ground. Furthermore, we have got conducted a test privately and report thereof is enclosed as Annexure 11, which shows effluents to be within parameters.	During inspection on 15.01.2026 effluent samples were collected by the team of officers, the analysis result of which reveals that the parameters are exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot negate the sampling conducted by the Board officers. Moreover, any post-inspection remedial actions or reports after 15.01.2026 do not regularize the violations already committed. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026. The analysis result of the sample collected on 15.01.2026 is being conveyed to the industry separately.
4.7	The representative of the industry has not produced any document regarding CT/CTO of the Board under the provisions of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981	CTO has been applied on 23.01.2026 with Application ID 30995201.	Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. The industry had remained in operation and is being operated without the consents since 31.03.2020 i.e. for about six years, thereby violating the provisions of Sections 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act,

		1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Filing of an application for obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 does not in any manner construed to be the grant of the consents to operate.
5	It is to be noted that the Consent to Operate u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has been applied for with application ID 30995118 on 23.01.2026.	Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
6	The industry is not a polluting industry falling within the orange category marked as serial no. 127 i.e. Printing Press, as evident from the Classification Circular dated 12.02.2025. From the submissions mentioned above, the printing press has filled the necessary Consents, taken all the necessary precautions for the safe emission, collection, reception, treatment, storage and disposal of its waste. Moreover, the proposed direction does not emphasise a permanent shutdown of the printing press, but only for the time period till the pollution control measures have been taken. It is to be noted that the requisite measures have been taken by the establishment, which is higher than the applicable industry standard, and inspection may be conducted for the same by the PPCB. Therefore, there is no occasion to exercise power under section 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1987.	The categorization of industry does not give any relaxation with regard to the compliance of environmental norms. The Orange category industries are also of polluting nature and the printing press carries pollution index of 56.5. The orange category of industry is also mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The industry is operating in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and it is a fit case to exercise powers u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 33-A of the

			Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
7		It may be noted that PPCB has been maliciously targeting and taking actions against Punjab Kesari Group. In relation to Ludhiana press, Order dated 15.01.2026 was passed without even giving the party an opportunity of being heard. Subsequently a writ petition bearing CWP No. 1289 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana. As no interim relief was granted while reserving the judgment, the SLP bearing Diary No. 2871 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 20.01.2026 was pleased to dispose of the SLP while directing that publication of the newspaper of Punjab Kesari shall continue uninterruptedly. Thereafter, aggrieved by the Order dated 23.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 1289 of 2026, SLP bearing No. 3982 of 2026 titled as 'Jagat Vijay Printers LLP & Anr. V. The State of Punjab & Ors.' was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 29.01.2026, passed direction for the press to continue. However, the directions issued by us vide order dated 20.01.2026 with respect to allowing the printing press for the publication of newspaper "Punjab Kesari" to function uninterruptedly, shall continue in force and, thus, the newspaper shall be allowed to publish uninterruptedly without causing any impediment subject to the final order that may be passed by the NGT. Further, we are in the process of filing an appeal before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Copy of Order dated 29.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is annexed as Annexure-12.	The contention of the industry is totally wrong hence denied that the Punjab Pollution Control Board has been maliciously targeting and taking actions against the Punjab Kesari Group. In the present case, the printing press is operating without the mandatory consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and for the last about six years the industry is intentionally and deliberately causing pollution. The facts relating to the passing of order dated 20.01.2026 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP bearing Diary No. 2871 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the orders dated 23.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in Civil Writ Petition no. 1298 of 2026 and Civil Writ Petition no. 940 of 2026 and further orders dated 29.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are a matter of record and are being complied by the Board. The Jagat Vijay Printers is operating the unit in compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

8	We have submitted the full details with respect to the compliance, and it is prayed that the operation of the press should not be curtailed as same would be in violation of Article 19 (1) (A) of the Constitution of India. The conditions to operate under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1987 may be imposed as advised, which are reasonable and commensurate to conditions imposed on other establishments of similar nature.	
9	There is no justification for passing a closure Order when the establishment has and/or willing in all respects to implement any measures which are required by PPCB.	

At this stage, the Officers of the Board apprised that the analysis report of the samples collected during the visit on 15.01.2026 by the team of officers of the Board has been issued by Head office Laboratory of the Board vide letter no. 2413 Dated 04.02.2026. As per the analysis report various parameters such as oil & grease - > 100 mg/ltr, TSS -46400 mg/ltr, BOD -18500 mg/ltr, COD -158000 mg/ltr, found beyond the permissible limit of general standards for discharge of environmental pollutants onto land for irrigation (oil & grease - 10 mg/ltr, TSS -200 mg/ltr, BOD -100 mg/ltr, COD -250 mg/ltr).

After hearing the parties and examining the record, the Competent Authority observed that the Printing press is admittedly being operated for a long period of about six years intentionally and deliberately without the consents to operate of the Board since 31.03.2020 in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted action by the Board against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect and is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the consent to operate of the Board under Section 25 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 is an offence punishable with imprisonment.

The statement of the industry is wrong that seven days' notice was issued by the Board. The industry was and is not adhering to any environmental norms and was/is causing environmental pollution intentionally and deliberately. In view of these facts, ten days' notice was issued to the industry for hearing (notice was issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing was held on 09.02.2026) and the same is justified otherwise the case was fit for issuance of closure directions without any opportunity.

It is further observed that the industry has also prevented the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from inspecting the industrial unit to check the compliance of environmental norms. Such an action and behavior of the project proponent is not appreciated. It is relevant to mention here that all the members/officers,

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 officials of the Board when acting or purporting to act in the discharge of their official duties are public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code according to Section 50 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and Section 24 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. The Project Proponent in fact has restrained the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from performing their official duty. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the district Police for protection to perform the visit to check the environmental compliance. This exercise has wasted the valuable time & resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department. The Project Proponent has portrayed himself as a victim of the situation but in fact the Project Proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended as well as Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended intentionally and deliberately. The disclosure of the analysis report by the officers of the Board (of the samples of effluent collected during the inspection of the industry on 15.01.2026) is also not favorable. The analysis report reveals that various parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The written submissions given by the representatives of the industry have been considered and found not appropriate.

The Competent Authority further observed that it is a fit case to invoke the provisions of the Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024 for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to the printing press at Ludhiana) the Competent Authority decided to impose Environmental Compensation upon the industry on the basis of Polluter Pays Principle for degradation of environment for the period of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 upto the date of hearing. The Polluter Pays Principle has been decided to be the part of the environmental laws of the country by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India without any specific statute. Apart from the imposition of environmental compensation, the industry is also liable for appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024.

After hearing the representatives of the industry, officers of the Board and considering material aspects of the case, the Competent Authority has decided to issue following directions under Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024.

1. The industry shall provide acoustic enclosure /canopy alongwith adequate stack height to the DG sets within 15 days.
2. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall assess the Environmental Compensation to be imposed upon the industry from the date of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from the EC Verification Committee (constituted by the Board for evaluation of environmental compensation) and further ensure to issue orders in this regard.
3. If the environmental compensation for the period of violation has to be imposed jointly under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, the EC verification committee may consider the same in consultation with the concerned regional office.

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4. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall visit the industry to verify the compliance of environmental norms and the claim and submissions made by the industry.
 5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall initiate legal action in the case and file prosecution against the industry and its responsible persons for violation of the provisions of Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 before the Competent Court of Law.
 6. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall process the application filed by the industry for consent to operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 on merits.

17/2
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No. 723

Dated 17/2/24

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar for information and necessary action as per the above decision.

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17/2
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board



Punjab Pollution Control Board



Zonal office, Near PSIEC, Water Tank, Focal Point, Jalandhar

Phone No. 0181-2601612

www.ppcb.gov.in

Email ID - seppcbjal@gmail.com

No.

120

(Regd.)

Date

17/2/26

To,

M/s Hind Samachar Limited,
G.T. Road, Suranassi,
Jalandhar

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing held on 09.02.2026 before Chairperson of the Board in reference to notice u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Following were present: -

On behalf of Board: - Dr. Lavneet Dubey, Member Secretary.
Er. R.K Ratra, CEE, Jalandhar.
Er. Samita, SEE, ZO, Jalandhar.

On behalf of Industry: - Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorized Signatory.
Sh. Anmol Rai Garg, Advocate.
Sh. Pranshu Goyal, Advocate.
Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocate.

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The officers of the Board apprised that the industry namely Hind Samachar Ltd. situated at G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar is a large-scale red category unit (printing press) and was granted consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 24.05.2016 having validity upto 31.03.2020. The industry has not obtained the renewal of consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after the expiry of the consents on 31.03.2020. The industry was visited by the officer of the Board on 27.02.2025. The industry was not in operation at the time but it was observed by the visiting officer that the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers. The industry has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit, as such effluent samples could not be collected during the visit. The industry was otherwise operating without obtaining the valid consent to operate under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board. The Board has issued show cause notices to the industry for the violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 from time to time vide office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021; 974 dated 22.06.2022; 1980 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but the industry has failed to submit any reply to the show cause notices. The industry was thus violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and was operating the unit (printing press) without the valid consents to operate of the Board. Accordingly, a show cause notice was issued to the industry for violation of the provisions of above said Statutes vide letter no. 2643 dated 28.05.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025. However, no one on behalf of the industry attending the hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025.

Considering the non-appearance of any representative of the industry before the Senior Environmental Engineer on 10.06.2025, another show cause notice was issued to the industry vide letter no. 2840 dated 10.06.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer of the Board at Jalandhar on 20.06.2025. The hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 20.06.2025 was attended by Sh. Kultar Krishan, Admin in-charge. The representative stated that the industry will apply for the consent to operate within one month. After hearing the representative of the industry and considering the material facts, the Senior Environmental Engineer decided that the industry shall apply for consents under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days and the Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report/process the application on merit.

The proceedings of hearing held on 20.06.2025 were conveyed to the industry vide letter no. 311 dated 30.06.2025 for compliance but the industry failed to apply for the consents to operate of the Board.

Considering the case, the Competent Authority of the Board has constituted a team of officers for performing a surprise visit to check the environmental compliances of the printing press namely Hind Samachar Limited at Jalandhar. When the officers of the Board reached the premises of the industry (printing press) on 15.01.2026 for performing the surprise visit, the representative of the industry (printing press) came outside the gate of the industry and inquired about the purpose from the team members. The team members disclosed their identity and requested the representative of industry (printing press) to open the gate for inspection. The representative informed that he will open the gate after the approval from the management and went inside and closed the gate. The team knocked the door many times and waited outside the main gate of the industry for about 10-15 minutes, but the gate of the industry was not opened and the visiting team was not allowed to perform the official surprise inspection. Considering the circumstances, the visiting team had requested the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) in writing on 15.01.2026 to provide police protection so as to enable the team to perform the visit to the premises. Accordingly, a Police team comprising the SSP, two DSPs & other Police officials reached the site and the main gate of the industry was opened after a time period of about 4 hours.

Thereafter, the team of officers performed the visit alongwith Police officials. The observations of the visiting team are mentioned below:

1. The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not in operation.
2. The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.
3. The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near the ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste category 33.1.
4. The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.
5. The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.

6. The effluent samples were collected during visit from the collection tank and the samples were sent to Head Office Laboratory for analysis.

In view of the above facts and violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was issued vide letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 and a notice to issued direction u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued vide letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 within an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026. In reference to the said notice the representatives of the industry have come to attend the hearing.

Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorized Signatory of M/s Hind Samachar Limited, Jalandhar attended the hearing alongwith Sh. Anmol Rai Garg; Sh. Pranshu Goyal and Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocates. The authorized signatory stated that despite of insufficient period of less than 07 days granted for the hearing, the industry is submitting a written reply. The reply was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply and offered their comments by taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers. The observations of the visiting team (mentioned in the notice issued to the industry), the response of the industry and the comments of the officer's present during the hearing are tabulated herein below:

Sr No.	Notice issued by the Board wherein observations were recorded.	Response of industry	Further comments of the officers of the Board.
1		As per the Central Pollution Control Board ("CPCB") Guidelines, the said industry does not fall within the red category rather falls under the orange category marked as serial no. 127 i.e. Printing Press, as evident from the Classification Circular dated 12.02.2025. A copy of the said Circular is annexed herewith as Annexure-1.	The industry has earlier obtained the consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 under red category. Now as per the latest categorization of Central Pollution Control Board, the industry is covered in orange category. The categorization do not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

2		The industry had the Consent to Operate up to 31.03.2020, due to administrative oversight the renewal of the Consent to Operate was not applied. However, the Consent to Operate has been applied for on 23.01.2026 with Application ID 30995201. A copy of the same has been annexed herewith as Annexure-2.	The plea of oversight cannot be made applicable to the environmental compliances which is a serious issue. After the expiry of the consents to operate on 31.03.2020, the industry remained operational in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The consent to operate application filed on 23.01.2026 was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
3	9	In regard to your visit on 15.01.2026, it has been mentioned by the team from Punjab Pollution Control Board ("PPCB") that the press was not operational. It is to be noted that the PPCB team visited during the day which was within the non-operating hours of the press, as the press operates at night and not during the day. Moreover, during the visit, only junior-level members were present. It is pertinent to note that no representative of the establishment was present, as no notice was provided before inspection. FIR No. 12 dated 15.01.2026 was lodged based on a complaint by Shri Raj Vinder Singh i.e., Respondent No.2, Environment Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board ("PPCB"), Zonal Office Patiala. The quashing petition titled 'Avinash Chopra Vs State of Punjab' bearing No. CRM-M No. 5521 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana, which granted a stay on the proceedings of the FIR added as Annexure 3.	May be, the industrial unit was not in operation at the specific time of visit by the officers of the Board but the industry has to make compliances of the environmental laws. It is admitted that the printing press operates at night and not during the day. The representatives of the industry were present during the inspection by the team of officers of the Board. The facts relating to the registration of FIR and subsequent stay granted by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CRM-M no. 5521 of 2026 are a matter of record.

6. The effluent samples were collected during visit from the collection tank and the samples were sent to Head Office Laboratory for analysis.

In view of the above facts and violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was issued vide letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 and a notice to issued direction u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued vide letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 within an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026. In reference to the said notice the representatives of the industry have come to attend the hearing.

Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorized Signatory of M/s Hind Samachar Limited, Jalandhar attended the hearing alongwith Sh. Anmol Rai Garg; Sh. Pranshu Goyal and Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocates. The authorized signatory stated that despite of insufficient period of less than 07 days granted for the hearing, the industry is submitting a written reply. The reply was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply and offered their comments by taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers. The observations of the visiting team (mentioned in the notice issued to the industry), the response of the industry and the comments of the officer's present during the hearing are tabulated herein below:

Sr No.	Notice issued by the Board wherein observations were recorded.	Response of industry	Further comments of the officers of the Board.
1	9	As per the Central Pollution Control Board ("CPCB") Guidelines, the said industry does not fall within the red category rather falls under the orange category marked as serial no. 127 i.e. Printing Press, as evident from the Classification Circular dated 12.02.2025. A copy of the said Circular is annexed herewith as Annexure-1.	The industry has earlier obtained the consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 under red category. Now as per the latest categorization of Central Pollution Control Board, the industry is covered in orange category. The categorization do not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

4.1	The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not operation	It is to be noted that printing presses are operational only at night, when the newspaper is printed.	The fact is admitted by the industry that the printing press is being operated during night hours.
4.2.	The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height	It is to be noted the DG set of 750 KVA capacity is installed and is rarely used due to the regular supply of power to the area. The DG set with canopy and silencer with adequate stack height of 10 feet above building height will be maintained. In case any additional stack height or equipment is required the same should be specified in the condition to operate. A photo of the DG SET with adequate stack height is enclosed herewith as Annexure 4	During inspection, the DG set was found installed without adequate acoustic canopy and inadequate stack height which constitute a violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Any future intent or assurance cannot substitute the violation of law found at the time of visit. The operation of the DG set without declared capacity, requisite emission control measures, and adequate stack height constitutes a violation of the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The statement made by the industry shows that they will make compliance of adequate height.
4.3	The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste Category 33.1	It is to be noted that these containers do not contain any hazardous waste as treated effluent is discharged from ETP In any event, a Authorized Collection Agent has been duly contracted for any Hazardous waste. A copy of the contract is enclosed as Annexure 5. A copy of authorization is enclosed as Annexure-6. Additionally, for ink waste, which is minimal another contract is entered with authorised collection agent. A copy of the contract is enclosed as Annexure 7. A copy of	Used plastic containers containing ink/chemicals fall within the scope of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and is categorized as hazardous waste of category 33.1. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas within the industrial unit and the unit did not possess the mandatory authorization under Rule 6 of the said Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management

		authorization is enclosed as Annexure-8.	and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Hence, the violation of the provisions of Rule 6, 8 and 9 of HOWM Rules, 2016 is clearly established.
4.4	The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.	The notice mentions that the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) during the visit was not in operation. The PPCB officials may visit the printing press upon intimation to see the functioning ETP. Photographs of the functioning ETP has been annexed as Annexure-9. The ETP is functional and the output treated water is being used for gardening purposes and is clear of impurities. A copy of report dated 05.02.2026 is annexed as Annexure-10.	The statement made by the industry defeats the very purpose of the surprised visit. During inspection on 15.01.2026, non-operation of the ETP was established and analysis of effluent being discharged from its collection tank revealed parameters exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot override the sampling conducted by the Board officers. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026.
4.5	The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.	Although the treated effluent is used for gardening purposes, a contract has been entered into with an authorised Collection Agent for the treatment, storage and disposal of the waste for the safe collection and disposal of the same.	The unit has not maintained any environmentally sound adequate arrangement for disposal of effluent in the premises of the industrial unit. The industry cannot enter into an agreement with any person for collection, storage and disposal of effluent.

4.6	The effluent samples were collected from the collection tank in the presence of Police officials and same were sent to the Board's Water lab, Patiala for analysis.	It is to be noted that no report of the effluent sample collected in the presence of police officials, as mentioned in the aforesaid notice, has been provided to the undersigned to date and even with the notice delivered on 3.02.2026. Section 22 (2) of the Water Act mandates a copy of the analysis result to be sent to the occupier of the establishment, which has not been done in this case till date. It is submitted that until such a report has been served and analysed by the owner of the establishment, no action/submission is to be taken against them on this ground. Furthermore, we have got conducted a test privately and report thereof is enclosed as Annexure 11, which shows effluents to be within parameters.	During inspection on 15.01.2026 effluent samples were collected by the team of officers, the analysis result of which reveals that the parameters are exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot negate the sampling conducted by the Board officers. Moreover, any post-inspection remedial actions or reports after 15.01.2026 do not regularize the violations already committed. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026. The analysis result of the sample collected on 15.01.2026 is being conveyed to the industry separately.
4.7	The representative of the industry has not produced any document regarding CT/CTO of the Board under the provisions of the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981	CTO has been applied on 23.01.2026 with Application ID 30995201.	Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. The industry had remained in operation and is being operated without the consents since 31.03.2020 i.e. for about six years, thereby violating the provisions of Sections 25/26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act,

			1974 and Section 53 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Filing of an application for obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 does not in any manner construed to be the grant of the consents to operate.
5		It is to be noted that the Consent to Operate u/s 25 and 26 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 has been applied for with application ID 30995201 on 23.01.2026.	Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
6		The industry is not a polluting industry falling within the orange category marked as serial no. 127 i.e. Printing Press, as evident from the Classification Circular dated 12.02.2025. From the submissions mentioned above, the printing press has filled the necessary Consents, taken all the necessary precautions for the safe emission, collection, reception, treatment, storage and disposal of its waste. Moreover, the proposed direction does not emphasise a permanent shutdown of the printing press, but only for the time period till the pollution control measures have been taken. It is to be noted that the requisite measures have been taken by the establishment, which is higher than the applicable industry standard, and inspection may be conducted for the same by the PPCB. Therefore, there is no occasion to exercise power under section 33-A of the	The categorization of industry does not give any relaxation with regard to the compliance of environmental norms. The Orange category industries are also of polluting nature and the printing press carries pollution index of 56.5. The orange category of industry is also mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The industry is operating in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and it is a fit case to exercise

	Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.	powers u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
7	It may be noted that PPCB has been maliciously targeting and taking actions against Punjab Kesari Group. In relation to Ludhiana press, Order dated 15.01.2026 was passed without even giving the party an opportunity of being heard. Subsequently a writ petition bearing CWP No. 1289 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana. As no interim relief was granted while reserving the judgment, the SLP bearing Diary No. 2871 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 20.01.2026 was pleased to dispose of the SLP while directing that publication of the newspaper of Punjab Kesari shall continue uninterruptedly. Thereafter, aggrieved by the Order dated 23.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble High Court in CWP No. 1289 of 2026, SLP bearing No. 3982 of 2026 titled as 'Jagat Vijay Printers LLP & Anr. V. The State of Punjab & Ors.' was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 29.01.2026, passed direction for the press to continue. 'However, the directions issued by us vide order dated 20.01.2026 with respect to allowing the printing press for the publication of newspaper "Punjab Kesari" to function uninterruptedly, shall continue in force and, thus, the newspaper shall be allowed to publish uninterruptedly without causing any impediment subject to the final order that may be passed by the NGT. Further, we are in the process	The contention of the industry is totally wrong hence denied that the Punjab Pollution Control Board has been maliciously targeting and taking actions against the Punjab Kesari Group. In the present case, the printing press is operating without the mandatory consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and for the last about six years the industry is intentionally and deliberately causing pollution. The facts relating to the passing of order dated 20.01.2026 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP bearing Diary No. 2871 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the orders dated 23.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in Civil Writ Petition no. 1298 of 2026 and Civil Writ Petition no. 940 of 2026 and further orders dated 29.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are a matter of record and are being complied by the Board. The Jagat Vijay Printers is operating the unit in compliance to the

		of filing an appeal before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. Copy of Order dated 29.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is annexed as Annexure-12.	orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
8		We have submitted the full details with respect to the compliance, and it is prayed that the operation of the press should not be curtailed as same would be in violation of Article 19 (1) (A) of the Constitution of India. The conditions to operate under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1987 may be imposed as advised, which are reasonable and commensurate to conditions imposed on other establishments of similar nature.	
9		There is no justification for passing a closure Order when the establishment has and/or willing in all respects to implement any measures which are required by PPCB.	

At this stage, the Officers of the Board apprised that the analysis report of the samples collected during the visit on 15.01.2026 by the team of officers of the Board has been issued by Head office Laboratory of the Board vide letter no. 2413 Dated 04.02.2026. As per the analysis report various parameters such as oil & grease - > 100 mg/ltr, TSS -46400 mg/ltr, BOD -18500 mg/ltr, COD -158000 mg/ltr, found beyond the permissible limit of general standards for discharge of environmental pollutants onto land for irrigation (oil & grease - 10 mg/ltr, TSS -200 mg/ltr, BOD -100 mg/ltr, COD -250 mg/ltr).

After hearing the parties and examining the record, the Competent Authority observed that the Printing press is admittedly being operated for a long period of about six years intentionally and deliberately without the consents to operate of the Board since 31.03.2020 in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted action by the Board against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect and is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the consent to operate of the Board under Section 25 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution)

Amendment Act, 2024 and u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 is an offence punishable with imprisonment.

The statement of the industry is wrong that seven days' notice was issued by the Board. The industry was and is not adhering to any environmental norms and was/is causing environmental pollution intentionally and deliberately. In view of these facts, ten days' notice was issued to the industry for hearing (notice was issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing was held on 09.02.2026) and the same is justified otherwise the case was fit for issuance of closure directions without any opportunity.

It is further observed that the industry has also prevented the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from inspecting the industrial unit to check the compliance of environmental norms. Such an action and behavior of the project proponent is not appreciated. It is relevant to mention here that all the members/officers, officials of the Board when acting or purporting to act in the discharge of their official duties are public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code according to Section 50 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and Section 24 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. The Project Proponent in fact has restrained the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from performing their official duty. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the district Police for protection to perform the visit to check the environmental compliance. This exercise has wasted the valuable time & resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department. The Project Proponent has portrayed himself as a victim of the situation but in fact the Project Proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended as well as Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended intentionally and deliberately. The disclosure of the analysis report by the officers of the Board (of the samples of effluent collected during the inspection of the industry on 15.01.2026) is also not favorable. The analysis report reveals that various parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The written submissions given by the representatives of the industry have been considered and found not appropriate.

9 The Competent Authority further observed that it is a fit case to invoke the provisions of the Section 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024 for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to the printing press at Ludhiana) the Competent Authority decided to impose Environmental Compensation upon the industry on the basis of Polluter Pays Principle for degradation of environment for the period of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 upto the date of hearing. The Polluter Pays Principle has

been decided to be the part of the environmental laws of the country by the Hon'ble ⁵⁷ Supreme Court of India without any specific statute. Apart from the imposition of environmental compensation, the industry is also liable for appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024.

After hearing the representatives of the industry, officers of the Board and considering material aspects of the case, the Competent Authority in exercise of the powers conferred u/s 33-A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 has decided to issue the following directions:

1. The industry shall install piezometers at upstream and downstream locations so that groundwater sampling is carried out as per the prescribed norms within one month.
2. The Board officers shall collect groundwater samples after one month and submit the analysis report of the groundwater sampling for further action.
3. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall assess the Environmental Compensation to be imposed upon the industry from the date of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from the EC Verification Committee (constituted by the Board for evaluation of environmental compensation) and ensure to issue orders in this regard.
4. If the environmental compensation for the period of violation has to be imposed jointly under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended, the EC verification committee may consider the same in consultation with the concerned regional office.
5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall visit the industry to verify the compliance of environmental norms and the claim and submissions made by the industry.
6. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar is directed to initiate legal action in the case and file prosecution against the industry and its responsible persons for violation of the provisions of Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024.
7. The analysis report of the samples of effluent collected on 15.01.2026 shall be disclosed and forwarded to the industry by Regional Office, Jalandhar after the deposit of analysis charges by the industry.

8. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall process the application filed by the industry for consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 on merits.

 17/2
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No.....721.....

Dated.....17/2/20.....

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar for information and necessary action as per the above decision.

 17/2
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Annexure R/14

59

Sub: Minutes of meeting dated 19.02.2026 of committee constituted for evaluating the Environmental Compensation to be imposed on defaulting industrial units / ULBs / HCFs and other establishments falling under the jurisdiction of RO Jalandhar.

The meeting of committee constituted for evaluating the Environmental Compensation to be imposed on defaulting industrial units / ULBs / HCFs and other establishments falling under the jurisdiction of Regional Office Jalandhar was held on 19.02.2026.

The following officers were present:

1. Er. Ravinder Bhatti, Senior Environmental Engineer (HQ-1)
2. Er. Harinder Singh, Environmental Engineer (HQ-1/2)
3. Er. Deepak Chadha, Environmental Engineer (RO Jalandhar)

During meeting, the following case relating to Regional Office Jalandhar and received through Zonal Office, Jalandhar was analyzed.

1. **M/s Hind Samachar Limited situated at G.T road, Suranassi, Jalandhar (E- Office File no.: 358533)**

The industry was issued notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of Water Act, 1974 and u/s 31-A of Air Act, 1981 alongwith an opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026, wherein it was decided that the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar shall assess the Environmental Compensation to be imposed upon the industry from the date of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from EC verification committee.

Vide e-office file no.: 358533, RO, Jalandhar calculate EC and Zonal Office, Jalandhar has sent the case for EC verification as under:

Particulars	Values	
EC	$PI \times N \times R \times S \times LF$	
PI	50	Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981
N	2141	From 31.03.2020 to 09.02.2026
R	250	As suggested in case of violation
S	1.5	Large scale unit
LF	1.25	For Jalandhar having population 2.19 million
EC	$50 \times 2141 \times 250 \times 1.5 \times 1.25 = \text{Rs. } 5,01,79,687.5/-$	


E.E., RO, Jalandhar.



Observations of the committee:

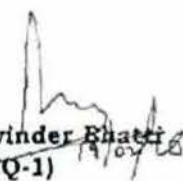
- Environmental Engineer, RO Jalandhar informed that the industry is large scale orange category unit and it was granted consent to operate under Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 which were valid upto 31.03.2020.
- As the industry was granted consents upto 31.03.2020, the date of violation may be considered w.e.f. 01.04.2020 upto date of hearing i.e. 09.02.2026. Considering both dates, the no. of days of violation will be 2141 days as calculated by Regional Office.
- Considering above, the calculation of EC will be as under:
$$EC = 50 \times 2141 \times 250 \times 1.5 \times 1.25 = \text{Rs. } 5,01,79,687.5/- \text{ say Rs. } 5,01,79,688/-$$
- Submitted for approval to impose EC of Rs. 5,01,79,688/- for violation of Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 for period 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026.



Er. Deepak Chadha
EE RO Jalandhar



Er. Harinder Singh
EE (HQ-1/2)



Er. Ravinder Bharti
SEE (HQ-1)

9



Annexure R/15

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

No.131.....

Dated.7/4/2016.....

Subject: Imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) upon M/s Hind Samachar Limited, G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar for violation of provisions of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Order

In order to protect and improve the environment and for prevention of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property and maintaining or resorting the wholesomeness of water and to preserve the quality of air, the Parliament of India had enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and certain rules under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and all these Laws are collectively and severally being referred to as the Environmental Laws.

2) The Punjab Pollution Control Board being the prescribed authority is implementing the provisions of the Environmental Laws i.e. the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Rules made there under in the State of Punjab.

3) The industrial units, operations and processes including the printing presses are required to obtain the Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) from the Punjab Pollution Control Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and to comply with environmental norms prescribed thereunder.

4) M/s Hind Samachar Ltd. situated at G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar is a large-scale red category unit (printing press) and was granted consent to operate by the Punjab Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 on 24.05.2016 having validity upto 31.03.2020. The industry has not obtained the renewal of consents to operate of the Board under the said Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 after the expiry of the consents on 31.03.2020.

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ-147001

Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala -147001

Phone : Chairman. : 0175-2215793, Member Secretary : 0175-2215802 (O)

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The industry (printing press) was visited by the officer of the Board on 27.02.2025.

The industry was not in operation at that time but it was observed by the visiting officers that the industry has installed machinery for the printing of newspapers and has installed ETP which was not in operation during the visit, as such effluent samples could not be collected during the visit. The industry was otherwise operating the printing press without obtaining the valid consents to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the Board.

6) The Board had issued show cause notices to the industry for violation of the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 from time to time vide office letter no. 660 dated 17.02.2021; 974 dated 22.06.2022; 1980 dated 18.09.2024 and 4486 dated 18.09.2024 but the industry has failed to submit any reply to the show cause notices. The industry was thus violating various provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and was operating the unit (printing press) without the valid consents to operate of the Board.

7) Accordingly, a show cause notice was again issued to the industry for violation of the provisions of above said Statutes vide letter no. 2643 dated 28.05.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025. However, no one on behalf of the industry attended the hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 10.06.2025.

8) Considering the non-appearance of any representative of the industry before the Senior Environmental Engineer on 10.06.2025, another show cause notice was issued to the industry vide letter no. 2840 dated 10.06.2025 with an opportunity of hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer of the Board at Jalandhar on 20.06.2025. The hearing before the Senior Environmental Engineer, Jalandhar on 20.06.2025 was attended by Sh. Kultar Krishan, Admin In-charge. The representative stated that the industry will apply for the consent to operate within one month. After hearing the representative of the industry and considering the material facts, the Senior Environmental Engineer decided that the industry shall apply for the consents under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 within 15-days and Regional Office, Jalandhar shall verify the compliance made by the industry and submit report/process the application on merit. The proceedings of hearing



held on 20.06.2025 were conveyed to the Industry vide letter no. 311 dated 30.06.2025 for compliance but the industry has failed to apply for the consents to operate of the Board.

9) Considering the case, the Competent Authority of the Board has constituted a team of officers for performing a surprise visit to check the environmental compliances of the printing press namely Hind Samachar Limited at Jalandhar. When the officers of the Board reached the premises of the industry (printing press) on 15.01.2026 for performing the surprise visit, the representative of the industry (printing press) came outside the gate of the industry and inquired about the purpose from the team members. The team members disclosed their identity and requested the representative of industry (printing press) to open the gate for inspection. The representative informed that he will open the gate after the approval from the management and went inside and closed the gate. The team members knocked the door many times and waited outside the main gate of the industry for about 10-15 minutes, but the gate of the industry was not opened and the visiting team was not allowed to perform the official surprise inspection. Considering the circumstances, the visiting team had requested the Senior Superintendent of Police (Rural) in writing on 15.01.2026 to provide police protection so as to enable the team to perform the visit to the premises of the industry (printing press). Accordingly, a Police team comprising the Senior Superintendent of Police, two Deputy Superintendents of Police and other Police officials reached the site and the main gate of the industry was opened after a time period of about 4 hours.

10) Thereafter, the team of officers performed the visit alongwith Police officials. The observations of the visiting team are mentioned below.

- a) The industry is engaged in business of newspaper printing and same was not in operation.
- b) The industry has installed one no. DG set of unknown capacity placed in a closed room which is without canopy and double silencer of adequate stack height.
- c) The industry has stored plastic contaminated container near the ETP section in an open area, which are covered under hazardous waste category 33.1.
- d) The industry has installed ETP in the corner of the premises and same was not in operation. However, the industry has installed collection pit near



the ETP area and industry has provided pump in the collection tank and the outlet line of pump is leading to outside the premises and same is going to undisclosed location.

- e) The industry has not developed any plantation area for the scientific disposal of treated effluent.
- f) The effluent samples were collected during the visit and the samples were sent to Head Office, Laboratory of the Board at Patiala for analysis.

11) In view of the above facts and violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 was issued to the industry vide letter no. 378 dated 29.01.2026 and a notice to issue directions u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 was issued vide letter no. 380 dated 29.01.2026 within an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026.

12) Sh. Vivek Parkash Pandey, Authorizes Signatory of M/s Hind Samachar Ltd. Jalandhar attended the hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 along with Sh. Anmol Rai Garg, Sh. Pranshu Goyal and Sh. Sunehil Gupta, Advocates. The representatives of the industry submitted a written reply which was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply and offered their comments by taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers during visit on 15.01.2026. The comments offered by the officers of the Board are mentioned below.

- a. The industry has earlier obtained the consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 under red category. Now as per the latest categorization of Central Pollution Control Board, the industry is covered in orange category. The categorization does not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Sections 24 and 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- b. The plea of oversight cannot be made applicable to the environmental compliances which is a serious issue. After the expiry of the consents to operate on 31.03.2020, the industry remained operational in violation of



the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The consent to operate application filed on 23.01.2026 was returned due to non-submission of essential information.

- c. May be, the industrial unit was not in operation at the specific time of visit by the officers of the Board but the industry has to make compliances of the environmental laws. It is admitted that the printing press operates at night and not during the day. The representatives of the industry were present during the inspection by the team of officers of the Board. The facts relating to the registration of FIR and subsequent stay granted by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CRM-M no. 5521 of 2026 are a matter of record.
- d. (i) The fact is admitted by the industry that the printing press is being operated during night hours.
- (ii) During inspection, the DG set was found installed adequate without acoustic canopy and inadequate stack height which constitute a violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Any future intent or assurance cannot substitute the violation of law found at the time of visit. The operation of the DG set without declared capacity, requisite emission control measures, and adequate stack height constitutes a violation of the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The statement made by the industry shows that they will make compliance of adequate height.
- (iii) Used plastic containers containing ink/chemicals fall within the scope of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and is categorized as hazardous waste of category 33.1. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas within the industrial unit and the unit did not possess the mandatory authorization under Rule 6 of the said Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Hence, the violation of the provisions of Rule 6, 8 and 9 of HOWM Rules, 2016 is

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the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The consent to operate application filed on 23.01.2026 was returned due to non-submission of essential information.

- c. May be, the industrial unit was not in operation at the specific time of visit by the officers of the Board but the industry has to make compliances of the environmental laws. It is admitted that the printing press operates at night and not during the day. The representatives of the industry were present during the inspection by the team of officers of the Board. The facts relating to the registration of FIR and subsequent stay granted by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CRM-M no. 5521 of 2026 are a matter of record.
- d. (i) The fact is admitted by the industry that the printing press is being operated during night hours.
- (ii) During inspection, the DG set was found installed adequate without acoustic canopy and inadequate stack height which constitute a violation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Any future intent or assurance cannot substitute the violation of law found at the time of visit. The operation of the DG set without declared capacity, requisite emission control measures, and adequate stack height constitutes a violation of the provisions of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The statement made by the industry shows that they will make compliance of adequate height.
- (iii) Used plastic containers containing Ink/chemicals fall within the scope of Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 and is categorized as hazardous waste of category 33.1. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas within the industrial unit and the unit did not possess the mandatory authorization under Rule 6 of the said Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. Hence, the violation of the provisions of Rule 6, 8 and 9 of HOWM Rules, 2016 is



clearly established.

- (iv) The statement made by the industry defeats the very purpose of the surprised visit. Inspection 15.01.2026, operation of the was established During on nonETP and analysis of effluent being discharged from its collection tank revealed parameters exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot override the sampling conducted by the Board officers. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026.
- (v) The unit has not maintained any environmentally sound adequate arrangement for disposal of effluent in the premises of the industrial unit. The industry cannot enter into an agreement with any person for collection, storage and disposal of effluent.
- (vi) During inspection on 15.01.2026 effluent samples were collected by the team of officers, the analysis result of which reveals that the parameters are exceeding the prescribed norms, thereby confirming discharge of polluted effluent. The private laboratory reports submitted subsequently cannot negate the sampling conducted by the Board officers. Moreover, any post-inspection remedial actions or reports after 15.01.2026 do not regularize the violations already committed. The analysis report dated 05.02.2026 of private laboratory placed on record by the industry cannot be relied upon and considered valid for the violations found committed by the industry during visit on 15.01.2026. The analysis result of the sample collected on 15.01.2026 is being conveyed to the industry separately.
- (vii) Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. The industry had remained in operation and is being operated without the consents since 31.03.2020 i.e. for about six years, thereby violating the provisions of Sections 25/26 of the Water



- (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Filing of an application for obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 or the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 does not in any manner construed to be the grant of the consents to operate.
- e. Though the industry had applied for the consents to operate of the Board on 23.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information.
 - f. The categorization of industry does not give any relaxation with regard to the compliance of environmental norms. The Orange category Industries are also of polluting nature and the printing press carries pollution index of 56.5. The orange category of industry is also mandated to comply with Sections 24 & 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The industry is operating in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and it is a fit case to exercise powers u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and u/s 33-A of the 7 Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
 - g. The contention of the industry is totally wrong hence denied that the Punjab Pollution Control Board has been maliciously targeting and taking actions against the Punjab Kesari Group. In the present case, the printing press is operating without the mandatory consents to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since 31.03.2020 and for the last about six years the industry is intentionally and deliberately causing pollution. The facts relating to the passing of order dated 20.01.2026 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP bearing Diary No. 2871 of 2026 was filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and



the orders dated 23.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in Civil Writ Petition no. 1298 of 2026 and Civil Writ Petition no. 940 of 2026 and further orders dated 29.01.2026 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are a matter of record and are being complied by the Board. The Jagat Vijay Printers is operating the unit in compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

13) During the course of hearing (held on 09.02.2026) the officers of the Board apprised that the Head Office Laboratory of the Board at Patiala has released the analysis report of the samples collected from the premises of the industry on 15.01.2026. As per the analysis report issued by Head office Laboratory of the Board vide letter no. 2413 Dated 04.02.2026 various parameters such as oil and grease @ > 100 mg/ltr, TSS @ 46400 mg/ltr, BOD @ 18500 mg/ltr, COD @ 158000 mg/ltr, were found beyond the permissible limits of general standards for discharge of environmental pollutants onto land for irrigation (oil and grease - 10 mg/ltr, TSS - 200 mg/ltr, BOD - 100 mg/ltr, COD - 250 mg/ltr).

14) After hearing the parties and examining the record, it was observed by the Competent Authority that the printing press is admittedly being operated for a long period of about six years intentionally and deliberately without the consents to operate of the Board since 31.03.2020 in violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted action by the Board against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect and is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the consent to operate of the Board under Section 25 of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 is an offence punishable with imprisonment.

The statement of the industry was not correct that seven days' notice was issued by the Board. The industry was and is not adhering to any environmental norms and was/is causing environmental pollution intentionally and deliberately. In view of these facts, ten days' notice was issued to the industry for hearing (notice was issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing was held on 09.02.2026) and the same is justified otherwise the case was fit for issuance of closure directions without any opportunity.

It was further observed that the industry has also prevented the team of officers

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of the Board on 15.01.2026 from inspecting the industrial unit to check the compliance of environmental norms. Such an action and behaviour of the project proponent is not appreciated. It is relevant to mention here that all the members/officers, officials of the Board when acting or purporting to act in the discharge of their official duties are public servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Indian Penal Code according to Section 50 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and Section 24 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. The Project Proponent in fact has restrained the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 from performing their official duty. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the district Police for protection to perform the visit to check the environmental compliance. This exercise has wasted the valuable time and resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department. The Project Proponent has portrayed himself as a victim of the situation but in fact the Project Proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended as well as Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended intentionally and deliberately. The disclosure of the analysis report by the officers of the Board (of the samples of effluent collected during the inspection of the industry on 15.01.2026) is also not favourable. The analysis report reveals that various parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The written submissions given by the representatives of the industry have been considered and found not appropriate.

It was further observed that the case is fit to invoke the provisions of the Section 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024 and under Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024 for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to the printing press at Ludhiana) the Competent Authority decided to impose Environmental Compensation upon the industry on the basis of Polluter Pays Principle for degradation of environment for the period of violation since the industry is operating without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 upto the date of hearing. The Polluter Pays Principle has been decided to be the part of the environmental laws of the country by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India without any specific statute. Apart from the imposition of environmental compensation, the industry is also liable for appropriate action in accordance with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and the Air (Prevention



and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024.

15) It is relevant to brought on record that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has considered the Principles of Precaution, Sustainable development and Polluter Pay's and decided to strictly implement the same. The decisions so taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are summarized herein below:

- a) The concept of precautionary principle was considered in M.C Mehta versus Union of India and others and vide judgment dated 11.10.1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that the Precautionary Principle has been accepted as a part of the Law of the land.
- b) The concept of sustainable development was considered in M.C Mehta versus Union of India and others (1997) 2 SCC 353 and it was decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that the development is essential for the economy of the country but at the same time the environment and eco systems have to be protected.
- c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also considered the concept of Polluter Pay's Principle in Indian Council for Enviro Legal Action and others v/s Union of India and others (1996) 3 SCC 212 para 16, Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v/s Union of India (1996) 5 SCC 647 para 12-18 and held that Polluter Pay's Principle is accepted principle and part of environmental law of the country without even specific statute.

16) The proceedings of the personal hearing held before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 were conveyed to the industry vide letter no.722 dated 17.2.2026 under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and vide letter no. 720 dated 17.2.2026 Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

17) In compliance to the decisions of the personal hearing held on 09.02.2026, the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Jalandhar has jointly calculated the amount of environmental compensation for the period of violation from (01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in consultation with the EC verification committee and referred the case to the EC verification committee.

18) The EC verification committee constituted by the Board for evaluating the



and Control of Pollution) Amended Act, 2024.

15) It is relevant to brought on record that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has considered the Principles of Precaution, Sustainable development and Polluter Pay's and decided to strictly implement the same. The decisions so taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India are summarized herein below:

- a) The concept of precautionary principle was considered in M.C Mehta versus Union of India and others and vide judgment dated 11.10.1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held that the Precautionary Principle has been accepted as a part of the Law of the land.
- b) The concept of sustainable development was considered in M.C Mehta versus Union of India and others (1997) 2 SCC 353 and it was decided by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that the development is essential for the economy of the country but at the same time the environment and eco systems have to be protected.
- c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has also considered the concept of Polluter Pay's Principle in Indian Council for Enviro Legal Action and others v/s Union of India and others (1996) 3 SCC 212 para 16, Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v/s Union of India (1996) 5 SCC 647 para 12-18 and held that Polluter Pay's Principle is accepted principle and part of environmental law of the country without even specific statute.

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PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Environmental Compensation to be imposed upon defaulting industrial units, Urban Local Bodies, Health Care Facilities and Other establishment has considered the case of M/s Hind Samachar Limited, G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar in its meeting held on 19.02.2026. The EC verification committee has calculated the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026 (2141 days) under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in accordance with the formula and methodology evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and adopted by the Punjab Pollution Control Board. The calculation carried out by the EC verification committee is tabulated below:

Particulars	Values	
EC	$PI \times N \times R \times S \times LF$	
PI	50	Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981
N	2141	From 31.03.2020 to 09.02.2026
R	250	As suggested in case of violation
S	1.5	Large scale unit
LF	1.25	For Jalandhar having population 2.19 million
EC	$50 \times 2141 \times 250 \times 1.5 \times 1.25 = \text{Rs. } 5,01,79,687.50/-$ say Rs. 5,01,79,688/- for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026.	

19) Therefore, M/s Hind Samachar Limited, G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar through its Director / Authorized Signatory is hereby directed to deposit an amount of Rupees 5,01,79,688/- (Five Crore one Lakh Seventy nine thousand Six hundred eighty eight Rupees) as environmental compensation with the office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board for degrading and damaging the environment for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026 as recorded herein above within 15-days from the date of receipt of this order, failing which necessary action will be initiated for recovery of the amount of environmental compensation by adopting coercive measures.

20) The EC verification committee has confirmed the imposition of EC amount to Rs. 5,01,79,688/- upon the industry for the period of violation from 01.04.2020 to 09.02.2026. The calculated Environmental Compensation has been approved to be imposed by the Chairperson of the Board. Upon such imposition and approval, the orders for imposition of Environmental Compensation are being issued by the undersigned Member Secretary of the Board.

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Take notice that no further intimation or reminder will be issued or served by the Board in this regard after lapse of stipulated period of 15-days. The Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Jalandhar is directed to ensure compliance of directions issued to M/s Hind Samachar Limited, G.T. Road, Suranassi, Jalandhar.

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Member Secretary



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Rahul Clerk <courtclerk@aparlaw.in>

Advance Service of Reply – Appeal No. 47/2026 (Hind Samachar Limited through its Authorized Signatory Ashok Kumar vs. Punjab Pollution Control Board)

1 message

Rahul Clerk <courtclerk@aparlaw.in>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 7:06 PM

To: harshit.gupta@capitallaw.in, contact@capitallaw.in

Cc: Apar Gupta <office@aparlaw.in>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached the Reply filed on behalf of the Respondent in Appeal No. 47/2026, *Hind Samachar Limited through its Authorized Signatory Ashok Kumar vs. Punjab Pollution Control Board*.

The attached Reply is being served upon you by way of advance service. Kindly treat this email as advance service of the said Reply.

You are requested to kindly acknowledge receipt of this email and the attached Reply.

Thank you.

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Kind regards

Rahul

Court Clerk

Law Office of Apar Gupta

@ courtclerk@aparlaw.in**A** [E-215, 3rd Floor, East of Kailash, New Delhi, India 110065](#)**T** +91-9873-02-0252**Hind Samachar Reply in Appeal 47 of 2026.pdf**

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