

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

Appeal No. 58 of 2026

(IA no. 395 of 2026 and IA no. 396 of 2026)



Jagat Vijay Printers LLP

..... Applicant

Versus

Punjab Pollution Control Board

.... Respondents

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Ruby Sidhu
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda,



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(Er. Ruby Sidhu)

Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Bathinda
(On behalf of respondent PPCB)

Date: 20-07-2026

Place: BATHINDA

ATTESTED

RAJ KUMAR GUPTA
Advocate & Notary
Appointed by Govt. of India
BATHINDA (PB.)
20 JUL 2026

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



Appeal No. 58 of 2026
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Jagat Vijay Printers LLP

..... Applicant

Versus

Punjab Pollution Control Board

.... Respondents

Short reply by way of affidavit of Er. Ruby Sidhu,
Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda on behalf of respondent
Punjab Pollution Control Board.

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

as under:

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH

- 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 24.04.2026 passed by the Punjab Pollution Control Board wherein the Environmental Compensation amounting to Rs.2,79,00,000/- (Rs. Two Crore Seventy-Nine lakhs 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


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in the appeal that the impugned order has been passed without giving any 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 the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and vide order dated 21.05.2026, 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 21.05.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal is reproduced herein below:

"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 24.04.2026, imposing the environmental compensation of ₹2,79,00,000 (Rupees two crore seventy-nine lakh only)

2. IA No. 396/2026 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


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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.

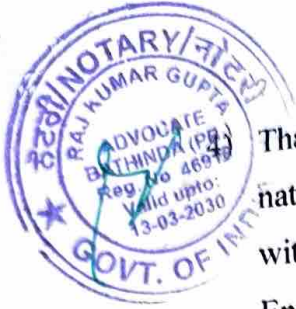
7. The respondent is directed to produce the original record leading to passing of impugned order at the time of hearing of the appeal.

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 along with Appeal No. 47/2026 on 22.07.2026.

- 3) That in compliance to order dated 21.05.2026, the appellant has deposited 50% of amount of Environmental Compensation @ Rs.1,39,50,000/- in the account of the Punjab Pollution Control Board through RTGS on 16.06.2026 out of the total amount of Environmental Compensation of Rs. 2,79,00,000/-. The Board has issued receipt no.71 dated 16.06.2026 in this regard to the appellant and a copy of receipt no.71 dated 16.06.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/1**.


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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 appellant was extended an opportunity of hearing before the Competent Authority of the Board on 09.02.2026 with the issuance of a notice u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 vide letter no.260 dated 29.01.2026 and notice u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide letter no. 262 dated 29.01.2026. A copy of letter no. 260 dated 29.01.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/2** and a copy letter no. 262 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. Swapnil Gupta authorized signatory on behalf of the appellant. After hearing the representative 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.

"5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda 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 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from the EC


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Verification Committee and ensure to issue orders in this regard.

6. 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. 2,79,00,000/- was thereafter imposed by the EC Verification Committee for the period of violation from 21.11.2013 to 09.02.2026 in accordance with the formula and methodology evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board and adopted 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.

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 restoring 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


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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 thereunder 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.
- d) The Punjab Kesari Group, (M/s Jagat Vijay Printer, LLP) situated at B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda is a medium-scale orange category unit (printing press) operating without obtaining the consent to establish and consent to operate of 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.
- e) The industrial unit (printing press) was visited by the team of officers of the Board on surprise basis on 15.01.2026 for inspection. However, the management of the industry


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deliberately denied entry to the Board officials for inspection despite the officials disclosing their identity and showing their identity cards to the representatives of the industry. The management informed the visiting officers that prior permission from the owner is required but thereafter locked the main gate of the industry from inside thereby restraining the officers of the Board from performing their statutory duties. Consequently, the Board officials were constrained to seek assistance from the Police Department for performing the visit to the printing press. Entry of the team of the officers of the Board into the premises of the industrial unit was allowed only after police intervention. The inspection of the industrial unit thereafter was carried out by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. During visit, the team of the officers of the Board made the following observations:

- i. The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.
- ii. The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminium printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.
- iii. The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.
- iv. The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall. and a sample of the trade effluent was collected from the said drain. As per analysis report received on 28.01.2026


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from the Board's lab, the concentration of parameters such as TSS-104 mg/l, COD- 1540 mg/l & BOD-188 mg/l are beyond the prescribed general standards (TSS -100, COD =250, BOD=30).

- v. The industry is storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.
- vi. The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.
- vii. Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.
- viii. The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.
- ix. The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.
- x. No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.

f) That the industry has failed to provide scientific arrangements for the treatment and disposal of effluent generated from its process. The trade effluent arising from


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washing of printing machines, plate cleaning, towel washing and floor cleaning was found to be disposed of in an unauthorized manner. The industry has also not made any arrangements for the proper handling, storage and management of hazardous waste generated from its premises. No stack has been provided with the DG set for discharge of emissions at the prescribed adequate height.



The industry has not installed adequate pollution control measures and is operating the unit without obtaining the Consent to Operate of the Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. Thus, the industry was and is operating in violation of the provisions of the above statutes.

- g) Considering the above violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended was issued to the industry vide letter no. 260 dated 29.01.2026 and similarly a notice to issue directions u/s 31-A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended was issued vide letter no. 262 dated 29.01.2026 with an opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026.
- h) Sh. Swapnil Gupta, Advocate attended the hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 on the behalf of industry and submitted written reply to the notice which was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply of the industry and offered their comments by


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taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers. The comments offered by the officers of the Board are mentioned below:

- i. The contention of the industry that the printing press was not in operation at the time of visit is not tenable. However, there is admission that the printing press operates at night when newspaper is printed. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection does not negate the violations observed, including discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of statutory consents. Environmental compliance obligations are continuous in nature and are not restricted to operational hours.
- ii. Even if the inputs are standard, the industry is legally bound to comply with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.
- iii. At the time of inspection by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026, coloured trade effluent was being discharged by the industry into the drain and no functional ETP was demonstrated to the inspecting team. Subsequent installation or operation of ETP after detection of violations does not regularize the past violations. Private laboratory reports submitted subsequently after the visit of the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 cannot override the analysis carried


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out by the visiting team of officers of the Board. No agreement specifically pertaining to the collection, storage, treatment and disposal of ETP sludge has been submitted by the industry. The agreement enclosed by the industry with the reply (as Annexure - 06 and 08) pertains only to waste categories of Used/spent oil and Empty barrels/containers/liners contaminated with hazardous chemicals /wastes of Schedule 1, which does not cover ETP sludge generated from the effluent treatment process which is covered under separate category of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry has not applied for or obtained the mandatory authorisation under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. In absence of valid authorisation and a specific agreement for ETP sludge disposal, the handling and disposal of such waste remains unauthorised and in violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the HWM Rules, 2016. Moreover, the agreement for category 5.1 submitted by the industry with the reply in Annexure 06 is executed on 02.02.2026 and the agreement for category 33.1 in Annexure 08 was executed in 03.02.2026. The submission of these agreements dated 02.02.2026 and 03.02.2026 does not in any manner absolve the owners of the industry from violation of the HWM Rules, 2016 already committed.

- iv. The samples of trade effluent were collected by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026

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in the presence of the representative of the industry who refused to disclose his name and also refused to sign the data sheet prepared by the visiting officers at the time of visit. The samples were sent to the Zonal Laboratory, Punjab Pollution Control Board at Ludhiana for analysis. The analysis report issued by the Zonal Laboratory, Ludhiana on 28.01.2026 reveals that the parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Bathinda has written letter no. 208 dated 09.02.2026 to the industry for deposit of analysis charges with the Board. The analysis report dated 28.01.2026 (of the samples of trade effluent collected on 15.01.2026) will be provided to the industry upon receipt of analysis fee. A copy of letter no.208 dated 09.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/4**.

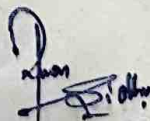
- v. It is factually stated that the used ink containers, chemical barrels, ink residues and waste oil fall under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection on 15.01.2026, the hazardous waste was found stored in open areas of the industrial unit and handed over to unauthorized kabadis. The industry did not possess valid authorization under Rule 6 at the time of visit by the team of officers on 15.01.2026, which clearly establish the violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of HWM Rules, 2016.
- vi. During inspection, the DG set was found installed without adequate stack height. Future assurance or intent of compliance cannot absolve the industry of the


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violation already committed. Operation of DG set without adequate stack constitutes violation of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. The industry was not having any consent to operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

- vii. The waste oil of DG set falls under category 5.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry was not having the authorization of the Board under the said Rules, 2016. The industry was disposing of the said DG set waste oil to unauthorized vendors known as kabadias. No scientific arrangements were found to be made by the industry for storage of waste oil of DG sets.
- viii. Used ink containers, chemical barrels, fall under category 33.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas. The industry did not possess authorization under Rule 6 of HWM Rules, 2016.
- ix. Open burning of plastic waste was observed and recorded during the inspection by the visiting team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. Such an activity is prohibited under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and contributes to air pollution. Mere denial


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without documentary or factual evidence is not acceptable.

- x. The industry was found operating the printing press by the visiting team of officers on 15.01.2026 without the mandatory consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. However, the industry had applied for consent to operate on 29.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. Operation of the unit without obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and authorization under the HWM Rules, 2016 is illegal.
- i) Apart from the comments given above, the further submissions made by the industry in the written reply dated 09.02.2026 were also considered and the appropriate reply given by the officers of the Board is under.
 - i. The statement of the industry is wrong that seven days' notice was given by the Board. The violations being committed by the industry as observed by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 were serious in nature and considering the said violations and the operation of the industrial unit without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and


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Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, a ten days' notice of hearing was given to the industry (notice issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing held on 09.02.2026) otherwise the case is made out for issuance of directions for immediate closure of the unit without any opportunity under Rule 32 of the Punjab State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Rules, 1977.

- ii. The categorization of the industry does not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Section 24 and 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.
- iii. The submission made by the industry is immaterial that the press was not operational at the time of visit on 15.01.2026. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection do not negate the violations observed by the visiting team of officers with regard to the discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of mandatory consents to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- iv. The application for consent to operate submitted by the industry on 29.01.2026 has been returned due to incompletions.
- j) The Officers of the Board also apprised that the analysis report of the samples collected during the visit on 15.01.2026


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by the team of officers of the Board has been issued by Zonal Laboratory of the Board at Ludhiana vide letter no. 340-44 dated 28.01.2026. As per the analysis report, various parameters have been found beyond the permissible limits.

The analysis result of the parameters is tabulated below:

Sr. No.	Parameters	From collection Tank (Results)	General Standards
1.	pH	7.7	5.5 to 9.5
2.	Oil & Grease (mg/ltr)	6.8	10
3.	TSS (mg/ltr)	104	100
4.	COD (mg/ltr)	1540	250
5.	BOD (mg/ltr)	188	30

- k) The Competent Authority observed that the statement made by the Project Proponent in the written reply submitted during the course of hearing (09.02.2026) that the PPCB is targeting and taking action against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect, and no such action has been taken by the Board as alleged. The printing press is admittedly being operated without the Consent to Operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since November 2013 i.e. for a long period of about 12 years. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted actions against Punjab Kesari Group is wrong hence denied and the same is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the Consent to Operate of the Board under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Amendment Act, 2024, and under Section 21 of the Air


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(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Amendment Act, 2024, is an offence punishable with imprisonment.



- 1) It was further observed that the industry was operating without the consents to operate of the Board and was not adhering to environmental norms and was/is causing pollution intentionally and deliberately. As such a seven days' notice was issued, which is justified otherwise the case qualifies for immediate closure without any opportunity. The behaviour of the Project Proponent is not appreciated, as the representatives of the industry prevented the team of officers of the Board from inspecting the industrial unit on 15.01.2026. It is relevant to mention here that all the members, officers and 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, as per 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 visiting team of officers of the Board from performing their official duties. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the District Police for protection in order to carry out the inspection of the industrial unit. This exercise has resulted in the wastage of valuable time and resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department.

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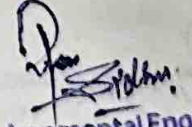
The Project Proponent has attempted to portray himself as a victim of the situation, but in fact the project proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is intentionally and deliberately violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. 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.

- m) The Competent Authority further observed that it is a fit case to invoke the provisions of Section 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as amended, for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to a 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 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)
Amendment Act, 2024.



- n) After hearing the representative 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) Act, 1974 and u/s 31-A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 has taken certain decisions separately which includes the decisions to impose Environmental Compensation upon the appellant.
- o) It is relevant to bring 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


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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.

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.357 dated 17.2.2026 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and vide letter no. 359 dated 17.2.2026 under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. A copy of letter no. 357 dated 17.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/5** and a copy of letter no. 359 dated 17.02.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R/6**.

q) In compliance to the decisions of the personal hearing held on 09.02.2026, the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda has jointly calculated the amount of environmental compensation for the period of violation under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act,

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Regional Office, Bathinda.



1981 and referred the case to the EC verification committee. The Environmental Engineer informed the EC verification committee that the industry is a medium scale orange category unit and had submitted a copy of electricity bill while applying for consents of the Board through OCMMS on 29.01.2026 and as per that electricity bill the date of electric connection is 21.11.2013. As such the date of commissioning of the industry may be considered 21.11.2013.

- 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 Punjab Kesari Group, B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda in its meeting held on 17.02.2026. The EC verification committee has calculated the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation of 4464 days from 21.11.2013 (date of commissioning of industry as per electricity bill) upto 09.02.2026 (date of hearing) 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:

Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.



Particulars	Values	
EC	PI*N*R*S*LF	
PI	50	Being violation of Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981
N	4464	From 21.11.2013 (date of commissioning as per electricity bill) to 09.02.2026 (date of hearing)
R	125	Being a medium scale orange category unit.
S	1	For medium scale units.
LF	1	As per criteria given for industrial unit.
EC	50 x 4464 x 125 x 1 x 1 = Rs. 2,79,00,000/-	

- s) Therefore, Punjab Kesari Group, (Jagat Vijay Printer, LLP) B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda through its Director/ Authorized Signatory was hereby directed to deposit an amount of Rupees 2,79,00,000/- (Two Crore Seventy nine Lakh Rupees) as environmental compensation vide order no. 163 dated 24.04.2026 with the office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board for degrading and damaging the environment for the period of violation from 21.11.2013 to 09.02.2026 as recorded in the order within 15-days from the date of receipt of the order, failing which necessary action will be initiated 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. 2,79,00,000/- upon the industry for the period of violation from 21.11.2013 to 09.02.2026. The calculated Environmental Compensation has been approved


 Environmental Engineer
 Punjab Pollution Control Board
 Regional Office, Bathinda.

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) The order no. 163 dated 24.04.2026 issued under the signature of the Member Secretary, Punjab Pollution Control Board for imposition of Environmental Compensation was conveyed to the appellant industry letter no. 957 dated 24.04.2026.
 - v) A copy of letter no. 957 dated 24.04.2026 with a copy of order no. 163 dated 24.04.2026 which is under challenge in the present appeal is enclosed as **Annexure R/7**.
- 7) That it is relevant to mention here that the appellant is operating the printing press without obtaining the consent to establish and consent to operate under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since November 2013. Till date the consent to operate has not been obtained by the appellant. The application submitted by the appellant for obtaining the consent to operate of the Board was returned on 06.02.2026 with some observations being incomplete. However, the appellant has not removed the observations and has not submitted the application again.
- 8) That it is further relevant to mention here that the respondent Punjab Pollution 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.


Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.



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9) That no ground as mentioned in sub para A to Z and sub para AA to OO in paragraph 36 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

(Er. Ruby Sidhu)

Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control
Board,

Regional Office, Bathinda
(On behalf of respondent PPCB)

Date: 20-07-2026

Place: BATHINDA

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.

Deponent

(Er. Ruby Sidhu)

Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Regional Office, Bathinda
(On behalf of respondent PPCB)

Date: 20-07-2026

Place: BATHINDA

GO GREEN TO BREATHE CLEAN

DON'T BE MEAN, KEEP ENVIRONMENT CLEAN

Prax. 1/12's 2005/07/03



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ
Punjab Pollution Control Board

CH
CH
CO
CO

Receipt No. P PCB/

Book No

Received with thanks from

[illegible]

Rupees (in words)

[illegible]

on account of HWM Fee / Consent Fee / Sample Testing Fee / R.T.I. Fee/ BMW Fee/ ~~12321~~
 24242424 (CC) through Cash/Cheque/DD/RTGS/NEFT No. ~~UT1BR5202606160035~~
 dated 16/6/26 and entered in Cash Book at Page No. 1

Deputy Controller
(Finance & Accts)

Environmental Engineer

Regional Office.....B.T.J.

Sign. of Sr. Assit.

RS. 1,39,50,000/-

IF YOU CAN'T REUSE IT, REFUSE IT. | SEARCH FOR SOLUTION BUT NOT FOR POLLUTION | SAVE EARTH SAVE TREES

Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office Bathinda

No. 260**Registered**Dated 29-01-2026

To

M/s Punjab Kesari Group,
B-11, Industrial Area (400 Killa),
Mansa Road, Bathinda.

Subject: Notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended in 1988.

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

And whereas, it is also mandatory on part of the Industry to obtain consent to operate an outlet u/s 25/26 of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 for discharge of trade effluent from its premises.

And whereas, it is also mandatory on the part of the industry to provide adequate & appropriate pollution control arrangements to bring down the concentration of various pollutants within the permissible limits prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry was visited by officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. The industry management did not allow the Board officials to enter the premises. The Board officials showed their ID cards; however, entry was still denied. The management informed them that they would first need permission from the owner and immediately locked the gate from inside. Consequently, the Board officials were compelled to contact the Police Department for assistance. The industry authorities allowed the entry to the Board officials solely following police intervention.

And whereas, during visit of the officers of the Board on 15.01.2026, following observations were made :-

1. The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.
2. The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminum printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.
3. The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.
4. The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall.
5. The industry is storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.
6. The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.
7. Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.
8. The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.
9. The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.

Punjab Kesari
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

10. No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water Act, 1974 & Air Act, 1981 and authorization under the HWM Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.

And whereas, the Industry has not provided scientific arrangements for treatment & disposal of effluent generated from its process (trade effluent generated from the washing of printing machine washing, plate cleaning and towel washing and floor cleaning) and same was being disposing off in an unauthorized manner. Further, there is no handling as well as management of hazardous waste generated from its premises. No stack has been provided with DG set for discharge of emission at adequate height.

And whereas, the Industry has not provided adequate pollution control measures and is operating the unit without obtaining consent to operate under the provisions of Water Act, 1974. Thus, violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

And whereas, the matter has been considered by the Competent Authority of the Board and it has been proposed to initiate action u/s 33-A of the Water Act, 1974 for closure of the industry due to above mentioned violations.

And whereas, the Punjab Pollution Control Board, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it u/s 33-A of Water Act, 1974, proposes to issue following directions: -

1. That the industry will dismantle and remove all outlets and stop forthwith discharging its trade effluent into sewer or drain or through any other mode.
2. That the industry will not restart any process unless all necessary water pollution control measures are taken and concentration of various pollutants in its treated trade effluent conforms to the effluent standards laid down by the Board for such discharges.
3. That the Industry will not restart discharging effluent until it obtains the consent 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 (PSPCL) authority is directed to disconnect the supply of electricity available to the Industry.

You are, hereby, given an opportunity to file objections, if any, on the proposed directions before the **Chairperson of the Board at Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala on 09.02.2026 at 11:00 A.M.**, failing which, it will be presumed that the industry has nothing to say in the matter and further action including confirmation of above directions shall be taken by the Board without giving further notice / opportunity.

Authy
29/8/26
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst: No.

Dated

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bathinda for information. He is requested to inform the industry regarding date, time & venue of the hearing well before the date of hearing.

P. S. Solanki
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

- sd -
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

No. 262**Registered**Dated 29-6/-2026

To

M/s Punjab Kesari Group,
B-11, Industrial Area (400 Killa),
Mansa Road, Bathinda.

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

Whereas, It is mandatory on part of the Industry to obtain 'consent to establish' (NOC) 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.

And whereas, it is also mandatory on part of the Industry to obtain consent to operate an outlet u/s 21 of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for discharge of emissions from its premises.

And whereas, It is also mandatory on the part of the Industry to provide adequate & appropriate pollution control arrangements to bring down the concentration of various pollutants within the permissible limits prescribed by the Board.

And whereas, the industry was visited by officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. The industry management did not allow the Board officials to enter the premises. The Board officials showed their ID cards; however, entry was still denied. The management informed them that they would first need permission from the owner and immediately locked the gate from inside. Consequently, the Board officials were compelled to contact the Police Department for assistance. The industry authorities allowed the entry to the Board officials solely following police intervention.

And whereas, during visit of the officers of the Board on 15.01.2026, following observations were made :-

1. The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.
2. The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminum printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.
3. The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.
4. The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall.
5. The industry is storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.
6. The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.
7. Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.
8. The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.
9. The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.

Punjab Kesari
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.



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10. No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water Act, 1974 & Air Act, 1981 and authorization under the HWM Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.

And whereas, the Industry has not provided scientific arrangements for treatment & disposal of effluent generated from its process (trade effluent generated from the washing of printing machine washing, plate cleaning and towel washing and floor cleaning) and same was being disposing off in an unauthorized manner. Further, there is no handling as well as management of hazardous waste generated from its premises. No stack has been provided with DG set for discharge of emission at adequate height.

And whereas, the Industry has not provided adequate pollution control measures and is operating the unit without obtaining consent to operate under the provisions of Air Act, 1981. Thus, violating the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

And whereas, the matter has been considered by the Competent Authority of the Board and it has been proposed to initiate action u/s 31-A of the Air Act, 1981 for closure of the industry due to above mentioned violations.

And whereas, the Punjab Pollution Control Board, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it u/s 31-A of Air Act, 1981, proposes to issue following directions: -

1. That the industry will dismantle and remove all outlets and stop forthwith discharging any emissions into the atmosphere.
2. That the industry will not restart any process unless all necessary air pollution control measures are taken and concentration of various pollutants in its emissions conforms to the emission standards laid down by the Board for such discharges.
3. That the industry will not restart discharging emission until it obtains the consent 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 (PSPCL) authority is directed to disconnect the supply of electricity available to the Industry.
5. That the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda shall seal the DG set(s) installed by the industry.

You are, hereby, given an opportunity to file objections, if any, on the proposed directions before the **Chairperson of the Board at Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala on 09.02.2026 at 11:00 A.M.**, failing which, it will be presumed that the Industry has nothing to say in the matter and further action including confirmation of above directions shall be taken by the Board without giving further notice / opportunity.

July
29/01/26

For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No.

Dated

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bathinda for information. He is requested to inform the industry regarding date, time & venue of the hearing well before the date of hearing.

P. S. Dhillon
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

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For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board



ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



No 988

S/ee-1/101

Date 03/02/2024

To

M/s Punjab Kesari Group,
B-11, Industrial Growth Centre, Mansa Road,
Bathinda.

Sub: Regarding Effluent Sample collection and analysis charges.

As per record of this office, following effluent sample collection and analysis fee (including GST fee and transportation fee) are pending: -

Sr. No.	Date of Sampling	Amount (in Rs.)	GST 18% (In Rs.)	Grand Total
1	15.01.26	4191-00	754-00	4945-00
Total				4945-00

You are requested to deposit the above said fee through bank draft in favour of '*Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board*' payable at Bathinda.

Treat it as most urgent please.

for Environmental Engineer


Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda

ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫ਼ਤਰ, ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਰੋਕਥਾਮ ਬੋਰਡ, ਜਿਲ੍ਹਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕੀ ਕੰਪਲੈਕਸ, ਬਠਿੰਡਾ

Regional Office, PPCB, District Administrative Complex, Bathinda

ਈ-ਮੇਲ : ecrobt@yahoo.in



PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Zonal Office, Bathinda

Proceedings of the personal hearing
given to M/s Punjab Kesari Group



No. 357

Registered

Dated 17.02.2026

To

M/s Punjab Kesari Group,
B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road,
Bathinda.

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing given to M/s Punjab Kesari Group, B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda u/s 33-A of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026.

The following were present:

From Board's side:

Dr. Lavneet Kumar, Member Secretary

Er. R.K. Ratra, CEE Bathinda

Er. Parveen Saluja, SEE, ZO, Bathinda

From Industry:

Sh. Swapnil Gupta, Authorized signatory

The officers of the Board apprised that Punjab Kesari Group is engaged in newspaper printing activities using offset printing machines at its unit situated at B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda. It was reported that the said unit has been operating without obtaining the Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate of the Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

The industrial unit (Printing Press) was visited by the team of officers of the Board on surprised basis on 15.01.2026 for inspection. However, the management of the industry deliberately denied entry to the Board officials for inspection despite the officials disclosing their identity and showing their Identity cards to the representatives of the industry. The management informed the visiting officers that prior permission from the owner is required but thereafter locked the main gate of the industry from inside thereby restraining the officers of the Board from performing their statutory duties. Consequently, the Board officials were constrained to seek assistance from the Police Department for performing the visit to the printing press. Entry of the team of the officers of the Board into the premises of the industrial unit was allowed only after police intervention. The inspection of the industrial unit thereafter was carried out by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. During visit, the team of the officers of the Board made the following observations.

1. The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.

Zonal Office, Bathinda at
Firozpur Road, Near Grain Market, Faridkot
E-mail: seezobtl@gmail.com

HS

Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

2. The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminium printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.
3. The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.
4. The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall, and a sample of the trade effluent was collected from the said drain. As per analysis report received on 28.01.2026 from the Board's lab, the concentration of parameters such as TSS-104 mg/l, COD- 1540 mg/l & BOD-188 mg/l are beyond the prescribed general standards (TSS -100, COD =250, BOD=30).
5. The industry is storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.
6. The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.
7. Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.
8. The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.
9. The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.
10. No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.

The industry has failed to provide scientific arrangements for the treatment and disposal of effluent generated from its process. The trade effluent arising from washing of printing machines, plate cleaning, towel washing and floor cleaning was found to be disposed of in an unauthorised manner. The industry has also not made any arrangements for the proper handling, storage and management of hazardous waste generated from its premises. No stack has been provided with the DG set for discharge of emissions at the prescribed adequate height.

The industry has not installed adequate pollution control measures and is operating the unit without obtaining the Consent to Operate of the Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. Thus, the industry was and is operating in violation of the provisions of the above statutes.

Considering the above violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended was issued to the industry vide letter no. 260 dated 29.01.2026 and similarly a notice to issue directions u/s 31-A of Air (Prevention and

Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended was issued vide letter no. 262 dated 29.01.2026 with an opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026.

In reference to the said notices dated 29.01.2026, Sh. Swapnil Gupta, Advocate attended the hearing on the behalf of Industry and submitted written reply to the notice which was taken on record.

The officers of the Board have considered the reply of the industry 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 (as mentioned in the notice issued to the industry), the response of the industry and the comments of the officers present during the hearing are tabulated herein below.

Sr. No.	Notice issued by the Board wherein observations were recorded	Response of the industry	Comments on the response of the industry by PPCB
1.	The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.	At time of visit, the printing press was not in operation, and no responsible officer was present as the printing operates at night, when newspaper is printed.	The contention of the industry that the printing press was not in operation at the time of visit is not tenable. However, there is admission that the printing press operates at night when newspaper is printed. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection does not negate the violations observed, including discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of statutory consents. Environmental compliance obligations are continuous in nature and are not restricted to operational hours.
2.	The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminium printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.	It is submitted that the printing press has used inputs which are as per the standard printing press practices.	Even if the inputs are standard, the industry is legally bound to comply with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

3.	The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.	Since the visit was undertaken when no official of the establishment was present. The PPCB officials may visit again under intimation as ETP is presently functional and operational on the site. The ETP is functional as per the report dated 05.02.2026. The report dated 05.02.2026 is annexed as Annexure-3 of the reply. A photo of the ETP plant is enclosed as Annexure-4 of the reply. We have got test conducted privately and test report dated 07.02.2026 demonstrates that all effluents are within parameters. A copy of the same is enclosed as Annexure-5 of the reply. The output treated water is being used for gardening purposes and is clear of impurities. Furthermore, an authorised collection agent under contract for the treatment, storage and disposal of the ETP waste is also in place. A copy of agreement is annexed as Annexure-6 of the reply. A copy of the authorization is annexed hereto as Annexure-7 of the reply.	At the time of inspection by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026, coloured trade effluent was being discharged by the industry into the drain and no functional ETP was demonstrated to the inspecting team. Subsequent installation or operation of ETP after detection of violations does not regularize the past violations. Private laboratory reports submitted subsequently after the visit of the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 cannot override the analysis carried out by the visiting team of officers of the Board. No agreement specifically pertaining to the collection, storage, treatment and disposal of ETP sludge has been submitted by the industry. The agreement enclosed by the industry with the reply (as Annexure - 06 and 08) pertains only to waste categories of Used/spent oil and Empty barrels/containers/liners contaminated with hazardous chemicals /wastes of Schedule 1, which does not cover ETP sludge generated from the effluent treatment process which is covered under separate category of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry has not applied for or obtained the mandatory authorisation under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. In absence of valid
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D. S. Singh
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

Zonal Office, Bathinda at
Firozpur Road, Near Grain Market, Faridkot
E-mail: seerzobti@gmail.com

Proceedings of the personal hearing
given to M/s Punjab Kesari Group

			authorisation and a specific agreement for ETP sludge disposal, the handling and disposal of such waste remains unauthorised and in violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the HWM Rules, 2016. Moreover, the agreement for category 5.1 submitted by the industry with the reply in Annexure 06 is executed on 02.02.2026 and the agreement for category 33.1 in Annexure 08 was executed in 03.02.2026. The submission of these agreements dated 02.02.2026 and 03.02.2026 does not in any manner absolve the owners of the industry from violation of the HWM Rules, 2016 already committed.
4.	The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall.	We have not received any test report or second sample for testing at our end. It is requested that officials of PPCB may visit under intimation and take samples in presence of our representative.	The samples of trade effluent were collected by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 in the presence of the representative of the industry who refused to disclose his name and also refused to sign the data sheet prepared by the visiting officers at the time of visit. The samples were sent to the Zonal Laboratory, Punjab Pollution Control Board at Ludhiana for analysis. The analysis report issued by the Zonal Laboratory, Ludhiana on 28.01.2026 reveals that the parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Bathinda has written letter no. 208 dated 09.02.2026 to the industry for deposit of analysis charges with the Board. The analysis report dated 28.01.2026 (of the samples of trade effluent

			collected on 15.01.2026) will be provided to the Industry upon receipt of analysis fee.
5.	The Industry was storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.	The waste is minimal and within permissible limits. However, out of abundant caution an authorised Collection Agent has been appointed under contract for the treatment, storage and disposal of the waste. A copy of agreement is annexed as Annexure 8 of the reply. A copy of the certificate in favour of the agent is annexed as Annexure 9 of the reply.	The reply given in para no. 03 above may please be read as reply to the contents of this para. Apart from the reply given in the para no. 03 above it is factually stated that the used ink containers, chemical barrels, ink residues and waste oil fall under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection on 15.01.2026, the hazardous waste was found stored in open areas of the industrial unit and handed over to unauthorized kabaadis. The industry did not possess valid authorization under Rule 6 at the time of visit by the team of officers on 15.01.2026, which clearly establish the violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of HWM Rules, 2016.
6.	The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.	The DG set with canopy and silencer with adequate stack height of 10 feet above building height will be maintained.	During inspection, the DG set was found installed without adequate stack height. Future assurance or intent of compliance cannot absolve the industry of the violation already committed. Operation of DG set without adequate stack constitutes violation of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. The industry was not having any consent to operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

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given to M/s Punjab Kesari Group

7.	Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.	The only waste generated by the unit i.e. printing press, is the oil from the DG sets. The DG set use is minimal as electricity supply is adequate. However, in any event the adequate arrangement has been made for storage and lifting through authorized collection agent of any such waste.	The waste oil of DG set falls under category 5.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry was not having the authorization of the Board under the said Rules, 2016. The industry was disposing of the said DG set waste oil to unauthorized vendors known as kabadias. No scientific arrangements were found to be made by the industry for storage of waste oil of DG sets. The reply given in para no. 03 above may please be read as part of reply to the contents of this para.
8	The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.	Ink waste may not be classified as hazardous. However, in any event the adequate arrangement has been made for storage and lifting through authorized collection agent of any such waste.	Used ink containers, chemical barrels, fall under category 33.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas. The industry did not possess authorization under Rule 6 of HWM Rules, 2016. The reply given in para no. 03 and 05 above may please be read as part of reply to the contents of this para.
9	The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.	It is denied that the establishment was engaged in the open burning of plastic waste.	Open burning of plastic waste was observed and recorded during the inspection by the visiting team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. Such an activity is prohibited under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and contributes to air pollution. Mere denial without documentary or factual evidence is not acceptable.

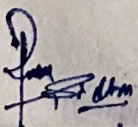
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Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda

10	No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.	CTO has been applied and may be granted on appropriate conditions.	The Industry was found operating the printing press by the visiting team of officers on 15.01.2026 without the mandatory consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. However, the Industry had applied for consent to operate on 29.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. Operation of the unit without obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and authorization under the HWM Rules, 2016 is illegal.
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Apart from the comments given above, the further submissions made by the industry in the written reply dated 09.02.2026 were also considered and the appropriate reply to the said submissions is given by the officers of the Board as under.

1. The statement of the industry is wrong that seven days' notice was given by the Board. The violations being committed by the industry as observed by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 were serious in nature and considering the said violations and the operation of the industrial unit without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, a ten days' notice of hearing was given to the industry (notice issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing held on 09.02.2026) otherwise the case is made out for issuance of directions for immediate closure of the unit without any opportunity under Rule 32 of the Punjab State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Rules, 1977.
2. The categorization of the industry does not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Section 24 and 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of


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Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

3. The submissions made by the industry is immaterial that the press was not operational at the time of visit on 15.01.2026. The presence of absence of printing activity at the time of inspection do not negate the violations observed by the visiting team of officers with regard to the discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of mandatory consents to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
4. The application for consent to operate submitted by the industry on 29.01.2026 has been returned due to incompleteness.

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 Zonal Laboratory of the Board at Ludhiana vide letter no. 340-44 dated 28.01.2026. As per the analysis report various parameters have been found beyond the permissible limits. The analysis result of the parameters is tabulated below:

Sr. No.	Parameters	From the Drain Adjoining Wall (Results)	General Standards
1.	pH	7.7	5.5 to 9.5
2.	Oil & Grease (mg/ltr)	6.8	10
3.	TSS (mg/ltr)	104	100
4.	COD (mg/ltr)	1540	250
5.	BOD (mg/ltr)	188	30

The Competent Authority observed that the statement made by the Project Proponent in the written reply submitted during the course of the hearing (09.02.2026) that the PPCB is targeting and taking action against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect, and no such action has been taken by the Board as alleged. The printing press is admittedly being operated without the Consent to Operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since November 2013 i.e. for a long period of about 12 years. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted actions against Punjab Kesari Group is wrong hence denied and the same is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the Consent to Operate of the Board under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Amendment Act, 2024, and under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Amendment Act, 2024, is an offence punishable with Imprisonment.

The industry was operating without the consents to operate of the Board and was not adhering to environmental norms and was/is causing pollution intentionally and deliberately. As such a seven days' notice was issued, which is justified otherwise the case qualifies for immediate closure without any opportunity. The behaviour of the Project Proponent is not appreciated, as the representatives of the industry prevented the team of officers of the Board from inspecting the industrial unit on 15.01.2026. It is relevant to mention here that all the members, officers and 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, as per 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 visiting team of officers of the Board from performing their official duties. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the District Police for protection in order to carry out the inspection of the industrial unit. This exercise has resulted in the wastage of valuable time and resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department.

The Project Proponent has attempted to portray himself as a victim of the situation, but in fact the project proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is intentionally and deliberately violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. 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.

The Competent Authority further observed that it is a fit case to invoke the provisions of Section 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as amended, for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to a 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 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.

After hearing the representative of the Industry, officers of the Board and considering material aspects of the case, the Competent Authority in exercise of the powers


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conferred u/s 33-A of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 decided to issue the following directions.

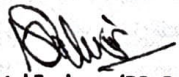
1. The industry shall immediately stop the discharge of coloured trade effluent into any drain and shall ensure proper and effective treatment of wastewater generated from all its processes.
2. The industry shall make adequate and scientific arrangements for the safe disposal of the treated wastewater in accordance with the applicable environmental norms.
3. 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.
4. The Board officers shall collect groundwater samples after one month and submit the analysis report of the groundwater sampling for further action.
5. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda 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 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from the EC Verification Committee and ensure to issue orders in this regard.
6. 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.
7. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda shall visit the industry to verify the compliance of environmental norms and the claim and submissions made by the industry.
8. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda 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.
9. The analysis report of the samples of effluent collected on 15.01.2026 shall be disclosed and forwarded to the industry by Regional Office, Bathinda after the deposit of analysis charges by the industry.
10. The industry shall obtain consent to operate under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the Board.

The above decisions were taken by the Competent Authority considering the violations under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended from time to time. However, the industry was also found to be operating without the authorization of the

Board by the visiting team of officers of the Board under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. As no separate notice in this regard has been issued to the Industry, it was decided by the Competent Authority that the following directions shall be conveyed to the Industry vide a separate letter.

- a) The Industry shall ensure scientific handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste generated from its premises strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
- b) The Industry shall apply and obtain the authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 within 15 days.
- c) In case the above decisions are not complied by the Industry, appropriate action for violation of the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 will be taken.

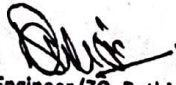
You are, therefore, requested to comply with the aforesaid decisions of the personal hearing.


d Senior Environmental Engineer (ZO, Bathinda)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No. 358

Dated 17-02-2026

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bathinda for information and requested to ensure the compliance of decision of hearing within stipulated period.


d Senior Environmental Engineer (ZO, Bathinda)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board

H.S


Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

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PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Zonal Office, Bathinda

Proceedings of the personal hearing
given to M/s Punjab Kesari Group



No. 359

Registered

Dated 17.02.2026

To

M/s Punjab Kesari Group,
B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road,
Bathinda.

Subject: Proceedings of the personal hearing given to M/s Punjab Kesari Group, B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda u/s 31-A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026.

The following were present:

From Board's side:

Dr. Lavneet Kumar, Member Secretary

Er. R.K. Ratra, CEE Bathinda

Er. Parveen Saluja, SEE, ZO, Bathinda

From Industry:

Sh. Swapnil Gupta, Authorized signatory

The officers of the Board apprised that Punjab Kesari Group is engaged in newspaper printing activities using offset printing machines at its unit situated at B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda. It was reported that the said unit has been operating without obtaining the Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate of the Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

The industrial unit (Printing Press) was visited by the team of officers of the Board on surprised basis on 15.01.2026 for inspection. However, the management of the industry deliberately denied entry to the Board officials for inspection despite the officials disclosing their identity and showing their identity cards to the representatives of the industry. The management informed the visiting officers that prior permission from the owner is required but thereafter locked the main gate of the industry from inside thereby restraining the officers of the Board from performing their statutory duties. Consequently, the Board officials were constrained to seek assistance from the Police Department for performing the visit to the printing press. Entry of the team of the officers of the Board into the premises of the industrial unit was allowed only after police intervention. The inspection of the industrial unit thereafter was carried out by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. During visit, the team of the officers of the Board made the following observations.

1. The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.

2. The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminium printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.
3. The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.
4. The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall. and a sample of the trade effluent was collected from the said drain. As per analysis report received on 28.01.2026 from the Board's lab, the concentration of parameters such as TSS-104 mg/l, COD- 1540 mg/l & BOD-188 mg/l are beyond the prescribed general standards (TSS -100, COD =250, BOD=30).
5. The industry is storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.
6. The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.
7. Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.
8. The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.
9. The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.
10. No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.

The industry has failed to provide scientific arrangements for the treatment and disposal of effluent generated from its process. The trade effluent arising from washing of printing machines, plate cleaning, towel washing and floor cleaning was found to be disposed of in an unauthorised manner. The industry has also not made any arrangements for the proper handling, storage and management of hazardous waste generated from its premises. No stack has been provided with the DG set for discharge of emissions at the prescribed adequate height.

The industry has not installed adequate pollution control measures and is operating the unit without obtaining the Consent to Operate of the Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. Thus, the industry was and is operating in violation of the provisions of the above statutes.

Considering the above violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended was issued to the industry vide letter no. 260 dated 29.01.2026 and similarly a notice to issue directions u/s 31-A of Air (Prevention and

Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended was issued vide letter no. 262 dated 29.01.2026 with an opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026.

In reference to the said notices dated 29.01.2026, Sh. Swapnil Gupta, Advocate attended the hearing on the behalf of industry and submitted written reply to the notice which was taken on record.

The officers of the Board have considered the reply of the industry 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 (as mentioned in the notice issued to the industry), the response of the industry and the comments of the officers present during the hearing are tabulated herein below.

Sr. No.	Notice issued by the Board wherein observations were recorded	Response of the Industry	Comments on the response of the industry by PPCB
1.	The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.	At time of visit, the printing press was not in operation, and no responsible officer was present as the printing operates at night, when newspaper is printed.	The contention of the industry that the printing press was not in operation at the time of visit is not tenable. However, there is admission that the printing press operates at night when newspaper is printed. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection does not negate the violations observed, including discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of statutory consents. Environmental compliance obligations are continuous in nature and are not restricted to operational hours.
2.	The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminium printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.	It is submitted that the printing press has used inputs which are as per the standard printing press practices.	Even if the inputs are standard, the industry is legally bound to comply with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

3.	The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the premises.	Since the visit was undertaken when no official of the establishment was present. The PPCB officials may visit again under intimation as ETP is presently functional and operational on the site. The ETP is functional as per the report dated 05.02.2026. The report dated 05.02.2026 is annexed as Annexure-3 of the reply. A photo of the ETP plant is enclosed as Annexure-4 of the reply. We have got test conducted privately and test report dated 07.02.2026 demonstrates that all effluents are within parameters. A copy of the same is enclosed as Annexure-5 of the reply. The output treated water is being used for gardening purposes and is clear of impurities. Furthermore, an authorised collection agent under contract for the treatment, storage and disposal of the ETP waste is also in place. A copy of agreement is annexed as Annexure-6 of the reply. A copy of the authorization is annexed hereto as Annexure-7 of the reply.	At the time of inspection by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026, coloured trade effluent was being discharged by the industry into the drain and no functional ETP was demonstrated to the inspecting team. Subsequent installation or operation of ETP after detection of violations does not regularize the past violations. Private laboratory reports submitted subsequently after the visit of the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 cannot override the analysis carried out by the visiting team of officers of the Board. No agreement specifically pertaining to the collection, storage, treatment and disposal of ETP sludge has been submitted by the industry. The agreement enclosed by the industry with the reply (as Annexure - 06 and 08) pertains only to waste categories of Used/spent oil and Empty barrels/containers/liners contaminated with hazardous chemicals /wastes of Schedule 1, which does not cover ETP sludge generated from the effluent treatment process which is covered under separate category of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry has not applied for or obtained the mandatory authorisation under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. In absence of valid
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Proceedings of the personal hearing
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			authorisation and a specific agreement for ETP sludge disposal, the handling and disposal of such waste remains unauthorised and in violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the HWM Rules, 2016. Moreover, the agreement for category 5.1 submitted by the industry with the reply in Annexure 06 is executed on 02.02.2026 and the agreement for category 33.1 in Annexure 08 was executed in 03.02.2026. The submission of these agreements dated 02.02.2026 and 03.02.2026 does not in any manner absolve the owners of the industry from violation of the HWM Rules, 2016 already committed.
4.	The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall.	We have not received any test report or second sample for testing at our end. It is requested that officials of PPCB may visit under intimation and take samples in presence of our representative.	The samples of trade effluent were collected by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 in the presence of the representative of the industry who refused to disclose his name and also refused to sign the data sheet prepared by the visiting officers at the time of visit. The samples were sent to the Zonal Laboratory, Punjab Pollution Control Board at Ludhiana for analysis. The analysis report issued by the Zonal Laboratory, Ludhiana on 28.01.2026 reveals that the parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Bathinda has written letter no. 208 dated 09.02.2026 to the industry for deposit of analysis charges with the Board. The analysis report dated 28.01.2026 (of the samples of trade effluent

			collected on 15.01.2026) will be provided to the industry upon receipt of analysis fee.
5.	The industry was storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.	The waste is minimal and within permissible limits. However, out of abundant caution an authorised Collection Agent has been appointed under contract for the treatment, storage and disposal of the waste. A copy of agreement is annexed as Annexure 8 of the reply. A copy of the certificate in favour of the agent is annexed as Annexure 9 of the reply.	The reply given in para no. 03 above may please be read as reply to the contents of this para. Apart from the reply given in the para no. 03 above it is factually stated that the used ink containers, chemical barrels, ink residues and waste oil fall under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection on 15.01.2026, the hazardous waste was found stored in open areas of the industrial unit and handed over to unauthorized kabadis. The industry did not possess valid authorization under Rule 6 at the time of visit by the team of officers on 15.01.2026, which clearly establish the violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of HWM Rules, 2016.
6.	The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.	The DG set with canopy and silencer with adequate stack height of 10 feet above building height will be maintained.	During inspection, the DG set was found installed without adequate stack height. Future assurance or intent of compliance cannot absolve the industry of the violation already committed. Operation of DG set without adequate stack constitutes violation of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. The industry was not having any consent to operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.


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7.	Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.	The only waste generated by the unit i.e. printing press, is the oil from the DG sets. The DG set use is minimal as electricity supply is adequate. However, in any event the adequate arrangement has been made for storage and lifting through authorized collection agent of any such waste.	The waste oil of DG set falls under category 5.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry was not having the authorization of the Board under the said Rules, 2016. The industry was disposing of the said DG set waste oil to unauthorized vendors known as kabadias. No scientific arrangements were found to be made by the industry for storage of waste oil of DG sets. The reply given in para no. 03 above may please be read as part of reply to the contents of this para.
8	The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.	Ink waste may not be classified as hazardous. However, in any event the adequate arrangement has been made for storage and lifting through authorized collection agent of any such waste.	Used ink containers, chemical barrels, fall under category 33.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas. The industry did not possess authorization under Rule 6 of HWM Rules, 2016. The reply given in para no. 03 and 05 above may please be read as part of reply to the contents of this para.
9	The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.	It is denied that the establishment was engaged in the open burning of plastic waste.	Open burning of plastic waste was observed and recorded during the inspection by the visiting team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. Such an activity is prohibited under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and contributes to air pollution. Mere denial without documentary or factual evidence is not acceptable.

10	No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.	CTO has been applied and may be granted on appropriate conditions.	The industry was found operating the printing press by the visiting team of officers on 15.01.2026 without the mandatory consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. However, the industry had applied for consent to operate on 29.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. Operation of the unit without obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and authorization under the HWM Rules, 2016 is illegal.
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Apart from the comments given above, the further submissions made by the industry in the written reply dated 09.02.2026 were also considered and the appropriate reply to the said submissions is given by the officers of the Board as under.

1. The statement of the industry is wrong that seven days' notice was given by the Board. The violations being committed by the industry as observed by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 were serious in nature and considering the said violations and the operation of the industrial unit without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, a ten days' notice of hearing was given to the industry (notice issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing held on 09.02.2026) otherwise the case is made out for issuance of directions for immediate closure of the unit without any opportunity under Rule 32 of the Punjab State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Rules, 1977.
2. The categorization of the industry does not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Section 24 and 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of


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Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

3. The submissions made by the Industry is immaterial that the press was not operational at the time of visit on 15.01.2026. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection do not negate the violations observed by the visiting team of officers with regard to the discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of mandatory consents to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
4. The application for consent to operate submitted by the industry on 29.01.2026 has been returned due to incompleteness.

The Competent Authority observed that the statement made by the Project Proponent in the written reply submitted during the course of the hearing (09.02.2026) that the PPCB is targeting and taking action against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect, and no such action has been taken by the Board as alleged. The printing press is admittedly being operated without the Consent to Operate of the Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 since November 2013 i.e. for a long period of about 12 years. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted actions against Punjab Kesari Group is wrong hence denied and the same is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the Consent to Operate of the Board under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Amendment Act, 2024 and under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, 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.

The behaviour of the Project Proponent is not appreciated, as the representatives of the Industry prevented the team of officers of the Board from inspecting the industrial unit on 15.01.2026. It is relevant to mention here that all the members, officers and 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, as per Section 24 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024 and Section 50 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. The Project Proponent, in fact has restrained the visiting

team of officers of the Board from performing their official duties. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the District Police for protection in order to carry out the inspection of the industrial unit. This exercise has resulted in the wastage of valuable time and resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department.

The Project Proponent has attempted to portray himself as a victim of the situation, but in fact the project proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is intentionally and deliberately violating the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. The written submissions given by the representative of the industry during the course of hearing have been considered and found not appropriate.

The Competent Authority further observed that it is a fit case to invoke the provisions of Section 31-A of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended, for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to a 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 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 representative 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 31-A of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 1981 decided to issue the following directions.

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, Bathinda 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.


Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

Zonal Office, Bathinda at
Firozpur Road, Near Grain Market, Faridkot
E-mail: seezobtl@gmail.com

4. The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda 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, Bathinda 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 industry shall obtain the consent to operate of the Board under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.

You are, therefore, requested to comply with the aforesaid decisions of the personal hearing.


d/c Senior Environmental Engineer (ZO, Bathinda)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Endst. No. 360

Dated 17.02.2026

A copy of the above is forwarded to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Bathinda for information and requested to ensure the compliance of decision of hearing within stipulated period.


d/c Senior Environmental Engineer (ZO, Bathinda)
for & on behalf of the
Punjab Pollution Control Board


Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.

**Punjab Pollution Control Board**

Zonal office, Bathinda at Firozpur Road, Near Grain Market, Faridkot.

www.ppcb.gov.inEmail ID – seezbti@gmail.com

No. 957

(Regd.)

Date 24.04.26

To

M/s Punjab Kesari Group,
(Jagat Vijay Printer LLP),
B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road,
Bathinda.

Subject: Imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) for Violation of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Ref:- Board order no. 163 dated 24.04.2026.

Please find enclosed herewith the orders issued by the Board vide under reference regarding the Imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) for violation of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

You are hereby directed to deposit the EC amount of Rs. 2,79,00,000/- (Two Crore Seventy-Nine Lakhs Rupees) to the Board Immediately as per orders attached.

DA: Order copy

Endst. No. 958.....

Harpreet Singh
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

Dated. 24.04.2026

A copy of the above is forwarded to Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board Regional Office, Bathinda for Information and necessary action and requested to submit compliance report as per orders, please.

Harpreet Singh
For & on behalf of
Punjab Pollution Control Board

P. Singh
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.



-57-55

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



No. 163

Dated. 24.04.2026

Subject: Imposition of Environmental Compensation (EC) upon Punjab Kesari Group (M/s Jagat Vijay Printer, LLP), B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda 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) The Punjab Kesari Group, (M/s Jagat Vijay Printer, LLP) situated at B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda is a medium-scale red category unit (printing press) operating without obtaining the consent to establish and consent to operate of 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.

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ-147001
Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala -147001

Environmental Engineer : Chairman. : 0175-2215793, Member Secretary : 0175-2215802 (O)
Punjab Pollution Control Board, Bathinda. | E-Mail : chairmanppcb@yahoo.in | msppcb@gmail.com |
Regional Office, Bathinda.



5) The industrial unit (printing press) was visited by the team of officers of the Board on surprise basis on 15.01.2026 for inspection. However, the management of the industry deliberately denied entry to the Board officials for inspection despite the officials disclosing their identity and showing their identity cards to the representatives of the industry. The management informed the visiting officers that prior permission from the owner is required but thereafter locked the main gate of the industry from inside thereby restraining the officers of the Board from performing their statutory duties. Consequently, the Board officials were constrained to seek assistance from the Police Department for performing the visit to the printing press. Entry of the team of the officers of the Board into the premises of the industrial unit was allowed only after police intervention. The inspection of the industrial unit thereafter was carried out by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. During visit, the team of the officers of the Board made the following observations:

- i. The unit is engaged in newspaper printing using offset printing machines and was not in operation during the visit.
- ii. The industry is engaged in offset printing using Aluminium printing plates, printing inks, clearing agents (E Cono-wash), dealing gum, roller care.
- iii. The industry was found discharging colored trade effluent into the drain situated along the boundary wall of the preinises.
- iv. The sample of trade effluent was collected from drain along the boundary wall. and a sample of the trade effluent was collected from the said drain. As per analysis report received on 28.01.2026 from the Board's lab, the concentration of parameters such as TSS-104 mg/l, COD- 1540 mg/l & BOD-188 mg/l are beyond the prescribed general standards (TSS -100, COD =250, BOD=30).
- v. The industry is storing used ink containers, empty barrels in an open area, which is further sold to Kabaadis.
- vi. The industry has installed DG set of unknown capacity without adequate stack.



- vii. Waste oil of DG set was found stored near DG set and same is being lifted to kabaddi / third party.
 - viii. The hazardous waste like used ink containers and empty barrels was stored in open area of the industry premises.
 - ix. The industry was burning the plastic waste in open within the industry premises.
 - x. No document of consent to operate/ establish under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and authorization under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 was made available during visit.
- 6) That the industry has failed to provide scientific arrangements for the treatment and disposal of effluent generated from its process. The trade effluent arising from washing of printing machines, plate cleaning, towel washing and floor cleaning was found to be disposed of in an unauthorised manner. The industry has also not made any arrangements for the proper handling, storage and management of hazardous waste generated from its premises. No stack has been provided with the DG set for discharge of emissions at the prescribed adequate height.

The industry has not installed adequate pollution control measures and is operating the unit without obtaining the Consent to Operate of the Board under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. Thus, the industry was and is operating in violation of the provisions of the above statutes.

- 7) Considering the above violations, a notice to issue directions u/s 33-A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended was issued to the industry vide letter no. 260 dated 29.01.2026 and similarly a notice to issue directions u/s 31-A of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended was issued vide letter no. 262 dated 29.01.2026 with an opportunity of personal hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026.


Environmental Engineer,
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.



8) Sh. Swapnil Gupta, Advocate attended the hearing before the Chairperson of the Board on 09.02.2026 on the behalf of industry and submitted written reply to the notice which was taken on record. The officers of the Board have considered the reply of the industry and offered their comments by taking into account the response of the industry and the observations made by the visiting team of officers. The comments offered by the officers of the Board are mentioned below:

- a) The contention of the industry that the printing press was not in operation at the time of visit is not tenable. However, there is admission that the printing press operates at night when newspaper is printed. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection does not negate the violations observed, including discharge of coloured trade effluent, improper waste handling and absence of statutory consents. Environmental compliance obligations are continuous in nature and are not restricted to operational hours.
- b) Even if the inputs are standard, the industry is legally bound to comply with the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.
- c) At the time of inspection by the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026, colored trade effluent was being discharged by the industry into the drain and no functional ETP was demonstrated to the inspecting team. Subsequent installation or operation of ETP after detection of violations does not regularize the past violations. Private laboratory reports submitted subsequently after the visit of the team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026 cannot override the analysis carried out by the visiting team of officers of the Board. No agreement specifically pertaining to the collection, storage, treatment and disposal of ETP sludge has been submitted by the industry. The agreement enclosed by the industry with the reply (as Annexure - 06 and 08) pertains only to waste categories of Used/spent oil and Empty barrels/containers/liners contaminated with hazardous chemicals /wastes of Schedule 1, which does not cover ETP sludge generated from the effluent treatment process which is covered under separate

W.S.



category of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry has not applied for or obtained the mandatory authorisation under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. In absence of valid authorisation and a specific agreement for ETP sludge disposal, the handling and disposal of such waste remains unauthorised and in violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the HWM Rules, 2016. Moreover, the agreement for category 5.1 submitted by the industry with the reply in Annexure 06 is executed on 02.02.2026 and the agreement for category 33.1 in Annexure 08 was executed in 03.02.2026. The submission of these agreements dated 02.02.2026 and 03.02.2026 does not in any manner absolve the owners of the industry from violation of the HWM Rules, 2016 already committed.

- d) The samples of trade effluent were collected by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 in the presence of the representative of the industry who refused to disclose his name and also refused to sign the data sheet prepared by the visiting officers at the time of visit. The samples were sent to the Zonal Laboratory, Punjab Pollution Control Board at Ludhiana for analysis. The analysis report issued by the Zonal Laboratory, Ludhiana on 28.01.2026 reveals that the parameters are beyond the permissible limits. The Regional Office, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Bathinda has written letter no. 208 dated 09.02.2026 to the industry for deposit of analysis charges with the Board. The analysis report dated 28.01.2026 (of the samples of trade effluent collected on 15.01.2026) will be provided to the industry upon receipt of analysis fee. H.S.
- e) The reply given in para no. 03 above may please be read as reply to the contents of this para. Apart from the reply given in the para no. 03 above it is factually stated that the used ink containers, chemical barrels, ink residues and waste oil fall under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection on 15.01.2026, the hazardous waste was found



stored in open areas of the industrial unit and handed over to unauthorized kabaadis. The industry did not possess valid authorization under Rule 6 at the time of visit by the team of officers on 15.01.2026, which clearly establish the violation of Rules 6, 8 and 9 of HWM Rules, 2016.

- f) During inspection, the DG set was found installed without adequate stack height. Future assurance or intent of compliance cannot absolve the industry of the violation already committed. Operation of DG set without adequate stack constitutes violation of Sections 21 and 22 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. The industry was not having any consent to operate under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.
- g) The waste oil of DG set falls under category 5.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. The industry was not having the authorization of the Board under the said Rules, 2016. The industry was disposing of the said DG set waste oil to unauthorized vendors known as kabaadis. No scientific arrangements were found to be made by the industry for storage of waste oil of DG sets. The reply given in para no. 03 above may please be read as part of reply to the contents of this para.
- h) Used ink containers, chemical barrels, fall under category 33.1 of Schedule 1 appended to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016. During inspection, hazardous waste was found stored in open areas. The industry did not possess authorization under Rule 6 of HWM Rules, 2016. The reply given in para no. 03 and 05 above may please be read as part of reply to the contents of this para.
- i) Open burning of plastic waste was observed and recorded during the inspection by the visiting team of officers of the Board on 15.01.2026. Such an activity is prohibited under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and contributes to air pollution. Mere denial without documentary or factual evidence is not acceptable.



- j) The industry was found operating the printing press by the visiting team of officers on 15.01.2026 without the mandatory consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended. However, the industry had applied for consent to operate on 29.01.2026 but the application was returned due to non-submission of essential information. Operation of the unit without obtaining the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended and authorization under the HWM Rules, 2016 is illegal.
- 9) Apart from the comments given above, the further submissions made by the industry in the written reply dated 09.02.2026 were also considered and the appropriate reply given by the officers of the Board is under.
- a) The statement of the industry is wrong that seven days' notice was given by the Board. The violations being committed by the industry as observed by the visiting team of officers during the visit on 15.01.2026 were serious in nature and considering the said violations and the operation of the industrial unit without the consent to operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, a ten days' notice of hearing was given to the industry (notice issued on 29.01.2026 and hearing held on 09.02.2026) otherwise the case is made out for issuance of directions for immediate closure of the unit without any opportunity under Rule 32 of the Punjab State Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution Rules, 1977.
- b) The categorization of the industry does not extend any relaxation to the industry which is mandated to comply with Section 24 and 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended and Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended.
- c) The submission made by the industry is immaterial that the press was not operational at the time of visit on 15.01.2026. The presence or absence of printing activity at the time of inspection do not negate the violations observed by the visiting team of officers with regard to the discharge of coloured trade

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effluent, improper waste handling and absence of mandatory consents to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

- d) The application for consent to operate submitted by the industry on 29.01.2026 has been returned due to incompletions.

10) The Officers of the Board also 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 Zonal Laboratory of the Board at Ludhiana vide letter no. 340-44 dated 28.01.2026. As per the analysis report, various parameters have been found beyond the permissible limits. The analysis result of the parameters is tabulated below:

Sr. No.	Parameters	From collection Tank (Results)	General Standards
1.	pH	7.7	5.5 to 9.5
2.	Oil & Grease (mg/ltr)	6.8	10
3.	TSS (mg/ltr)	104	100
4.	COD (mg/ltr)	1540	250
5.	BOD (mg/ltr)	188	30

11) The Competent Authority observed that the statement made by the Project Proponent in the written reply submitted during the course of hearing (09.02.2026) that the PPCB is targeting and taking action against the Punjab Kesari Group is factually incorrect, and no such action has been taken by the Board as alleged. The printing press is admittedly being operated without the Consent to Operate of the Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 since November 2013 i.e. for a long period of about 12 years. In view of these facts, the allegation of targeted actions against Punjab Kesari Group is wrong hence denied and the same is not sustainable. Non-obtaining of the Consent to Operate of the Board under Section 25 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Amendment Act, 2024, and under Section 21 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Amendment Act, 2024, is an offence punishable with imprisonment. H.S.

12) It was further observed that the industry was operating without the consents to operate of the Board and was not adhering to environmental norms and

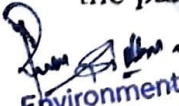


was/is causing pollution intentionally and deliberately. As such a seven days' notice was issued, which is justified otherwise the case qualifies for immediate closure without any opportunity. The behaviour of the Project Proponent is not appreciated, as the representatives of the industry prevented the team of officers of the Board from inspecting the industrial unit on 15.01.2026. It is relevant to mention here that all the members, officers and 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, as per 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 visiting team of officers of the Board from performing their official duties. The visiting team of officers of the Board had to contact the District Police for protection in order to carry out the inspection of the industrial unit. This exercise has resulted in the wastage of valuable time and resources of both the Punjab Pollution Control Board and that of the Police Department.

The Project Proponent has attempted to portray himself as a victim of the situation, but in fact the project proponent under the guise of a newspaper printing press was and is intentionally and deliberately violating the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024. 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.

13) The Competent Authority further observed that it is a fit case to invoke the provisions of Section 33-A of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, as amended, for closure of the industry in the first instance but in view of the fact that the unit is a printing press (and that the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a similar case has granted protection to a 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 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

V-S


Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Regional Office, Bathinda.



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) Amendment Act, 2024.

14) After hearing the representative 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) Act, 1974 decided to issue the following directions.

- a) The industry shall immediately stop the discharge of colored trade effluent into any drain and shall ensure proper and effective treatment of wastewater generated from all its processes.
- b) The industry shall make adequate and scientific arrangements for the safe disposal of the treated wastewater in accordance with the applicable environmental norms.
- c) 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.
- d) The Board officers shall collect groundwater samples after one month and submit the analysis report of the groundwater sampling for further action.
- e) The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda 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 upto the date of hearing and get the same verified from the EC Verification Committee and ensure to issue orders in this regard.
- f) 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.



- g) The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda shall visit the industry to verify the compliance of environmental norms and the claim and submissions made by the industry.
- h) The Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda 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.
- i) The analysis report of the samples of effluent collected on 15.01.2026 shall be disclosed and forwarded to the industry by Regional Office, Bathinda after the deposit of analysis charges by the industry.
- j) The industry shall obtain consent to operate under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the Board.

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.357 dated 17.2.2026 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and vide letter no. 359 dated 17.2.2026 under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

17) In compliance to the decisions of the personal hearing held on 09.02.2026, the Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Bathinda has jointly calculated the amount of environmental compensation for the period of violation under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and referred the case to the EC verification committee. The Environmental Engineer informed the EC verification committee that the industry is a medium scale orange category unit and had submitted a copy of electricity bill while applying for consents of the Board through OCMMS on 29.01.2026 and as per that electricity bill the date of electric connection is 21.11.2013. As such the date of commissioning of the industry may be considered 21.11.2013.

18) 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 Punjab Kesari Group, B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda in its meeting held on 17.02.2026. The EC verification committee has calculated the Environmental Compensation for the period of violation of 4484 days from 01.11.2013 (date of commissioning of industry as per electricity bill) upto 09.02.2026 (date of hearing) 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*N*R*S*LF	
PI	50	Being violation of Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981
N	4464	From 21.11.2013 (date of commissioning as per electricity bill) to 09.02.2026 (date of hearing)
R	125	Being a medium scale orange category unit.
S	1	For medium scale units.
LF	1	As per criteria given for industrial unit.
EC	50 x 4464 x 125 x 1 x 1 = Rs. 2,79,00,000/-	

19) Therefore, Punjab Kesari Group, (Jagat Vijay Printer, LLP) B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda through its Director / Authorized Signatory is hereby directed to deposit an amount of Rupees 2,79,00,000/- (Two Crore Seventy nine Lakh 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 21.11.2013 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. 2,79,00,000/- upon the industry for the period of violation from 21.11.2013 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.

21) 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, Bathinda is directed to ensure compliance of directions issued to Punjab Kesari Group (M/s Jagat Vijay Printer, LLP), B-11, Industrial Area, Mansa Road, Bathinda.


 Environmental Engineer
 Punjab Pollution Control Board
 Regional Office, Bathinda.

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 Member Secretary
 H.S.



Advance Service of Reply – Appeal No. 58/2026 (Jagat Vijay Printers LLP Through Its Authorized Signatory Ashok Kumar vs Punjab Pollution Control Board)

1 message

Rahul Clerk <courtclerk@aparlaw.in>
To: harshit.gupta@capitallaw.in, contact@capitallaw.in
Cc: Apar Gupta <office@aparlaw.in>

Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 10:52 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached the Reply filed on behalf of the Respondent in Appeal No. 58/2026, *Jagat Vijay Printers LLP 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 along with the attached Reply.

Thank you.

Yours faithf

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Kind regards

Rahul

Court Clerk

Law Office of Apar Gupta

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Final Jagat Vijay Reply in Appeal no 58 of 2026.pdf
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