

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL PRINCIPAL

BENCH, NEW DELHI

I.A NO.368/2020

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.249/2020

IN THE MATTER OF:

Santosh Gupta ...Applicant

VERSUS

Ministry of Environment, Forest &
Climate Change & Ors. ...Respondent(s)

WITH

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.254/2020

Shobhit Shukla ... Applicant

VERSUS

Govt. of NCT of Delhi ... Respondent(s)

WITH

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.255/2020

Chirag Jain ... Applicant

VERSUS

Govt. of NCT of Delhi ... Respondent(s)

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Dr. P.G. Najpande & Anr. ... Applicant

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State of M.P. & Ors. ... Respondent(s)

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Through

State of Punjab



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Written Note on behalf of State of Punjab

1. The State of Punjab was issued notice in the aforesaid matter which was listed before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 05.11.2020. In terms of the liberty granted, this brief note is being filed for and on behalf of the State of Punjab.
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2. In terms of the order dated 04.11.2020 this Hon'ble Tribunal issued notice to the States, Union Territories where 122 non-attainment cities are located. As regards the State of Punjab, such cities have been enlisted in the said order.
3. The matter relating to remedial action against pollution caused by use of Fire Crackers during the time air quality is un-satisfactory with potential of severity of Covid-19 pandemic is under consideration of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and the Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 4.11.2020 thereby Issuing notice to all the States / UTs where the non-attainment cities falls for banning the use of Fire Crackers.
4. As regards the State of Punjab, the matter has been considered by the State and it is apprised that the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the State in the non-attainment cities of Amritsar, Ludhiana, Mandi Gobindgarh, Patiala, Jalandhar, Khanna are cities where Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) have been installed and the Air Quality Index (AQI) had remained in the moderate range for the months of January and February, 2020, in the satisfactory range for the months March, April, May, June and July, 2020, in the range of good for the month August, 2020, satisfactory range in the month of September, 2020 and moderate in the month of October, 2020. The status relating to Air Quality Index (AQI) of the aforementioned non-attainment cities

for the months of January to October, 2020 in a tabular form is enclosed herewith as “**Annexure-A**”.

5. Further, it is stated that in the State of Punjab in compliance to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) no. 728 of 2015 titled as Arjun Gopal and Others v/s Union of India and Others had notified the time restrictions on bursting of Fire Crackers during Diwali, Gurpurab, Christmas and New Year Eve by issuing public notice in various newspaper through the State Pollution Control Board as under:

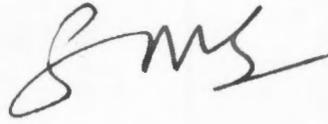
Festival	Day	Time for bursting crackers
Diwali	November 14, 2020	8.00 pm to 10.00 pm
Gurpurab	November 30, 2020	From 4.00 am to 5.00 am and from 9.00 pm to 10.00 pm.
Christmas Eve		From 11.55 pm till 12.30 am
New Year Eve		From 1.55 pm till 12.30 am

6. In view of the above stated facts and after due consideration of the matter in the background of Covid-19 pandemic, It is respectfully apprised that ban on the use of Fire Crackers is not required in the State of Punjab. It is further apprised that no part of the State falls in the National Capital Region (NCR). However, the State undertakes to abide by the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, if issued otherwise in the case.

It is submitted accordingly.

State of Punjab

Through



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Place : New Delhi
Dated : 06.11.2020

Annexure-A:

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All Sites Monthly AQI							
Date	Amritsar	Ludhiana	Mandi-Gobindgarh	Patiala	Jalandhar	Khanna	Punjab
Jan-20	105	89	188	97	123	122	121
Feb-20	128	99	154	96	120	82	113
Mar-20	83	62	81	57	65	55	67
Apr-20	58	48	61	50	45	51	52
May-20	77	79	128	81	84	84	88
Jun-20	87	85	102	72	85	89	86
Jul-20	60	71	126	51	62	66	73
Aug-20	54	50	53	41	50	51	50
Sep-20	84	73	126	80	78	84	87
Oct-20	154	162	176	142	147	137	153