

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

Original Application No. 1069/2024

News Item titled “CSE report finds dangerous increase in ozone pollution across urban India” appearing in Down to Earth dated 06.08.2024

Date of hearing: 21.03.2025

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON’BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondents: Ms. Praveena Gautam, Mr. Pawan Shukla & Ms. Tissy Annia
Thomas, Advs. for MoEF & CC
Mr. Srinivas Vishven, Adv. for CPCB (Through VC)

ORDER

1. In this original application, registered *suo motu*, the Tribunal is considering the issue of rising ground level ozone pollution across India in major cities, posing serious health threat, particularly to those with respiratory problems.
2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has filed the report dated 20.01.2025 disclosing as under:

“9. That the region-wise data of Ozone exceedance with respect to NAAQS is submitted in following sections:

- i. Yearly analysis of exceedance of ozone for the year 2023.*
- ii. Analysis of exceedance of ozone during summer (April-July) for the year 2023 & 2024.*
- iii. Analysis of exceedance of ozone during night time (10:00 pm to 06:00 am) for the year 2023.*

9.1 Yearly analysis of exceedance of Ozone for the year 2023

*Analysis of the exceedance of ozone levels in the year 2023 is depicted in **Tables 1 & 2.***

<p><i>Table 1: (8-hourly % Exceedance of ozone as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards): Year 2023</i></p>

Region	Total Number of monitoring stations	No. of monitoring stations with Zero Exceedance of Ozone	No. of monitoring Stations with more than 5% Exceedance of Ozone
Bengaluru Metropolitan Area	11	05	00
Chennai Metropolitan Area	07	01	00
Delhi-National Capital Region	57	07	15
Greater Ahmedabad	10	07	00
Greater Hyderabad	14	05	00
Greater Jaipur	06	00	05
Greater Lucknow	06	00	00
Kolkata Metropolitan Area	10	01	00
Mumbai Metropolitan Region	45	04	10
Pune Metropolitan Region	12	05	02

[5% exceedance means, out of total monitoring counts (1-hourly or 8-hourly as the case may be) 5% monitored counts exceeded the NAAQS

Table 2: (1-hourly % Exceedance of ozone as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards): Year 2023			
Regions	Total Number of monitoring Stations	No of monitoring Stations with Zero Exceedance of Ozone	No of monitoring Stations with more than 5% Exceedance of Ozone
Bengaluru Metropolitan Area	11	08	00
Chennai Metropolitan Area	07	02	00
Delhi-National Capital Region	57	08	01
Greater Ahmedabad	10	07	00
Greater Hyderabad	14	07	00
Greater Jaipur	06	01	00
Greater Lucknow	06	02	00
Kolkata Metropolitan Area	10	06	00
Mumbai Metropolitan Region	45	07	01
Pune Metropolitan Region	12	06	00

9.2 Analysis of exceedance of ozone level in summer (April-July)

Exceedance of ozone levels as per NAAQS during summer (April-July) 2023 & 2024 is depicted in **Table 3 & 4**.

Table: 3 (1 Hourly % Exceedance of ozone as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards): In Summer 2023 (April to July)			
Region	Total Number of monitoring Stations	No. of monitoring Stations with Zero Exceedance of Ozone	No. of monitoring Stations with More Than 5% Exceedance of Ozone
Bengaluru Metropolitan Area	11	11	00
Chennai Metropolitan Area	7	05	00
Delhi-National Capital Region	56	19	03
Greater Ahmedabad	8	07	00
Greater Hyderabad	14	11	00
Greater Jaipur	6	04	00
Greater Lucknow	6	05	00

Kolkata Metropolitan Area	10	09	00
Mumbai Metropolitan Region	40	20	00
Pune Metropolitan Region	10	08	00

Table: 4 (1 Hourly % Exceedance of ozone as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards): In Summer 2024 (April to July)			
Region	Total Number of monitoring stations	No. of monitoring Stations with Zero Exceedance of Ozone	No. of monitoring Stations with More Than 5% Exceedance of Ozone
Bengaluru Metropolitan Area	11	09	00
Chennai Metropolitan Area	7	03	01
Delhi-National Capital Region	57	08	08
Greater Ahmedabad	9	02	00
Greater Hyderabad	14	10	00
Greater Jaipur	6	03	00
Greater Lucknow	6	06	00
Kolkata Metropolitan Area	11	07	00
Mumbai Metropolitan Region	44	26	00
Pune Metropolitan Region	14	07	00

9.3 Analysis of exceedance of ozone level during night time (10:00 pm to 06:00 am) in 2023

Exceedance of ozone levels as per NAAQS during night time in 2023 is depicted in **Table 5**

Table: 5 (1 Hourly % Exceedance of ozone as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards): During night 2023			
Region	Total Number of monitoring Stations	No. of monitoring Stations with Zero Exceedance of Ozone	No. of monitoring Stations with More Than 5% Exceedance of Ozone
Bengaluru Metropolitan Area	11	11	00
Chennai Metropolitan Area	07	03	00
Delhi-National Capital Region	57	21	01
Greater Ahmedabad	10	08	00
Greater Hyderabad	14	11	00
Greater Jaipur	06	05	00
Greater Lucknow	06	04	00
Kolkata Metropolitan Area	10	09	00
Mumbai Metropolitan Region	45	34	01
Pune Metropolitan Region	12	10	00

10. Summary of Observations

- That the data of ozone at 178 monitoring stations during the year 2023 reveals that 1-hourly exceedance (>5%) of ozone is reported only at 01 stations each in Delhi-NCR & Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and 8-hourly exceedance (>5%) of ozone is observed at 32 monitoring stations at Delhi-NCR (15), Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)(10), Jaipur (5) and Pune (2).

- *That during summer of year 2024 out of total 178 monitoring stations, greater than 5% of 1-hourly exceedance of Ozone was observed in 8 no. of stations in Delhi NCR and 1 station of Chennai.*
- *That the night time (10:00 pm to 06:00 am) ozone concentration during the year 2023 shows that greater than 5% exceedance of the 1-hourly standard was reported at only one location each in Delhi-NCR & MMR.*
- *That Delhi-NCR and Mumbai Metropolitan Regions reported higher exceedances of ozone concentration compared to other regions.”*

3. The above report reflects that exceedance of ozone was noticed in the monitoring stations at various cities as mentioned in the table in Paragraph 9.1. However, CPCB needs to disclose matching the observed values with NAAQS particularly with reference to exceedance criteria adopted for more than 5% against exceedance of 2%.

4. Reply/response on behalf of MoEF&CC is awaited. Learned Counsel appearing for the MoEF&CC seeks four weeks’ time to file the reply.

5. List on 24.07.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

March 21, 2025
Original Application No. 1069/2024
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