

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

Original Application No. 687/2023

n re: **Air Quality Index in various Cities**

Date of hearing: 10.11.2023

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

Respondent(s): Mr. Krishnam Mishra, Adv., Dr. Abhishek Atrey & Mr. Vaibhav
Kandpal, Advs. for
Commission for Air Quality Management for NCR & Adjoining Areas
Mr. Amit Singh Chauhan, Adv. for CPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Abhimanyu Singh, Adv. for the State of Bihar (Through VC)
Mr. Prashant M. Harne, Adv. for the State of Madhya Pradesh
(Through VC)
Mr. Pradeep Misra & Mr. Daleep Dhyani, Advs. for UPPCB
(Through VC)
Mr. Kumar Anurag Singh, Adv. for the State of Jharkhand (Through
VC)
Mr. Mukesh Verma, Adv. for MPCB (Through VC)
Mr. Maulik Nanavati, Adv. for the State of Gujarat (Through VC)
Ms. Priyanka Swami, Adv. for the State of UP
Mr. Rahul Khurana, Adv. for the State of Haryana & HSPCB
Ms. Richa Kapoor, Mr. Kunal Anand & Ms. Eesha Sharma, Advs. for
Punjab PCB

ORDER

1. This original application was registered suo-moto considering the air quality in different cities on pan India basis as reflected in the Air Quality Bulletins of CPCB from 20.10.2023 to 01.11.2023.

2. The Tribunal taking note of the fact that on 01.11.2023, the air quality in the cities under consideration had dipped to severe, very poor and poor categories had issued notice to the Chief Secretaries of all the States where cities' AQI had dipped. These Chief Secretaries were directed to take immediate remedial action and submit action taken report.

3. After passing of the order on 03.11.2023 almost a week has passed but no significant improvement in the air quality in different cities under consideration has been found and in fact in some of the cities the air quality is either at the same stage or has dipped further.

4. The State-wise air quality position of different cities under consideration with reference to AQI from 03.11.2023 (date of passing of the previous order by the Tribunal) till 09.11.2023 (yesterday) is as under:-

Sl. No	State	City	Date	Air Quality	Index Value
1.	Punjab	Amritsar	03.11.2023	Poor	248
			04.11.2023	Poor	282
			05.11.2023	Moderate	178
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	316
			07.11.2023	Poor	205
			08.11.2023	Poor	240
			09.11.2023	Poor	229
2.	Gujarat	Ankleshwar	03.11.2023	Poor	254
			04.11.2023	Poor	228
			05.11.2023	Poor	210
			06.11.2023	Poor	216
			07.11.2023	Poor	228
			08.11.2023	Poor	226
			09.11.2023	Poor	216
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi	03.11.2023	Moderate	166
			04.11.2023	Moderate	131
			05.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			06.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			07.11.2023	Moderate	129
			08.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data

			09.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
4.	Haryana	Bahadurgarh	03.11.2023	Severe	404
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	364
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	363
			06.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	329
			08.11.2023	Poor	252
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	342
5.	Haryana	Balllabgarh	03.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			04.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			05.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	342
			07.11.2023	Poor	249
			08.11.2023	Poor	229
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	378
6.	Punjab	Bathinda	03.11.2023	Very Poor	338
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	385
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	375
			06.11.2023	Poor	288
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	343
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	348
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	372
7.	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	03.11.2023	Very Poor	305
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	367
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	365
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	319
			07.11.2023	Poor	287
			08.11.2023	Poor	247
			09.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
8.	Rajasthan	Bhiwadi	03.11.2023	Severe	410
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	388

			05.11.2023	Severe	413
			06.11.2023	Severe	433
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	374
			08.11.2023	Severe	414
			09.11.2023	Severe	410
9.	Haryana	Bhiwani	03.11.2023	Very Poor	313
			04.11.2023	Poor	300
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	310
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	335
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	361
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	400
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	334
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	03.11.2023	Poor	211
			04.11.2023	Poor	218
			05.11.2023	Poor	261
			06.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			07.11.2023	Moderate	195
			08.11.2023	Moderate	180
			09.11.2023	Moderate	195
11	Rajasthan	Bikaner	03.11.2023	Poor	260
			04.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			05.11.2023	Poor	243
			06.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			07.11.2023	Moderate	173
			08.11.2023	Poor	272
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	301
12	Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahr	03.11.2023	Very Poor	325
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	319
			05.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			06.11.2023	Poor	243
			07.11.2023	Moderate	173
			08.11.2023	Poor	264

			09.11.2023	Very Poor	312
13	Rajasthan	Bundi	03.11.2023	Moderate	178
			04.11.2023	Moderate	191
			05.11.2023	Moderate	184
			06.11.2023	Poor	233
			07.11.2023	Moderate	200
			08.11.2023	Poor	217
			09.11.2023	Poor	210
14	Meghalaya	Byrnihat	03.11.2023	Poor	276
			04.11.2023	Poor	272
			05.11.2023	Poor	241
			06.11.2023	Poor	293
			07.11.2023	Poor	260
			08.11.2023	Poor	277
			09.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
15	Haryana	Charkhi Dadri	03.11.2023	Poor	257
			04.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			05.11.2023	Poor	278
			06.11.2023	Poor	278
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	315
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	324
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	301
16	Rajasthan	Churu	03.11.2023	Very Poor	355
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	335
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	365
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	308
			07.11.2023	Poor	243
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	324
			09.11.2023	Poor	210
17	Rajasthan	Dausa	03.11.2023	Moderate	195
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	334

			05.11.2023	Poor	272
			06.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Data
			07.11.2023	Poor	298
			08.11.2023	Poor	277
			09.11.2023	Poor	290
18	Delhi	Delhi	03.11.2023	Severe	468
			04.11.2023	Severe	415
			05.11.2023	Severe	454
			06.11.2023	Severe	421
			07.11.2023	Very poor	395
			08.11.2023	Severe	426
			09.11.2023	Severe	437
19	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	03.11.2023	Insufficient data	Insufficient Date
			04.11.2023	Insufficient data	Insufficient Date
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	303
			06.11.2023	Poor	255
			07.11.2023	Insufficient data	Insufficient Date
			08.11.2023	Moderate	197
			09.11.2023	Poor	296
20	Haryana	Dharuhera	03.11.2023	Poor	276
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	383
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	385
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	334
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	320
			08.11.2023	Very poor	356
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	398
21	Haryana	Faridabad	03.11.2023	Severe	460
			04.11.2023	Severe	438
			05.11.2023	Severe	450
			06.11.2023	Severe	412
			07.11.2023	Very poor	374
			08.11.2023	Severe	425
			09.11.2023	Severe	410
22	Haryana	Fatehabad	03.11.2023	Severe	432
			04.11.2023	Severe	466
			05.11.2023	Severe	442
			06.11.2023	Severe	422
			07.11.2023	Severe	421
			08.11.2023	Severe	451

			09.11.2023	Severe	413
23	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	03.11.2023	Severe	410
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	394
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	394
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	391
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	342
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	384
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	391
24	Uttar Pradesh	Greater Noida	03.11.2023	Severe	494
			04.11.2023	Severe	490
			05.11.2023	Severe	402
			06.11.2023	Severe	420
			07.11.2023	Severe	457
			08.11.2023	Severe	478
			09.11.2023	Severe	439
25	Haryana	Gurugram	03.11.2023	Very Poor	367
			04.11.2023	Severe	404
			05.11.2023	Severe	402
			06.11.2023	Very poor	373
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	364
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	385
			09.11.2023	Severe	404
26	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	03.11.2023	Poor	206
			04.11.2023	Poor	252
			05.11.2023	Poor	270
			06.11.2023	Poor	286
			07.11.2023	Poor	289
			08.11.2023	Poor	239
			09.11.2023	Poor	222
27	Rajasthan	Hanumangarh	03.11.2023	Very Poor	395
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	393
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	371
			06.11.2023	Very poor	310
			07.11.2023	Very poor	369
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	386
			09.11.2023	Severe	403
28	Haryana	Hisar	03.11.2023	Severe	456
			04.11.2023	Severe	425
			05.11.2023	Severe	427
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	377
			07.11.2023	Severe	403

			08.11.2023	Very Poor	332
			09.11.2023	Severe	410
29	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi	03.11.2023	Poor	202
			04.11.2023	Moderate	137
			05.11.2023	Moderate	160
			06.11.2023	Moderate	194
			07.11.2023	Poor	203
			08.11.2023	Moderate	144
			09.11.2023	Moderate	157
			30	Rajasthan	Jhunjhunu
04.11.2023	Moderate	168			
05.11.2023	Poor	264			
06.11.2023	Poor	278			
07.11.2023	Poor	246			
08.11.2023	Moderate	197			
09.11.2023	Moderate	193			
31	Haryana	Kaithal	03.11.2023	Very Poor	361
			04.11.2023	Severe	415
			05.11.2023	Severe	434
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	366
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	377
			08.11.2023	Very poor	380
			09.11.2023	Severe	436
32	Haryana	Karnal	03.11.2023	Very Poor	312
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	305
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	319
			06.11.2023	Poor	238
			07.11.2023	Poor	290
			08.11.2023	Poor	279
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	327
33	Uttar Pradesh	Khurja	03.11.2023	Very Poor	336
			04.11.2023	Poor	253
			05.11.2023	Poor	272
			06.11.2023	Moderate	143
			07.11.2023	Satisfactory	99
			08.11.2023	Moderate	111
			09.11.2023	Moderate	172
34	Rajasthan	Kota	03.11.2023	Poor	264
			04.11.2023	Poor	202
			05.11.2023	Poor	212
			06.11.2023	Poor	216

			07.11.2023	Poor	204
			08.11.2023	Moderate	196
			09.11.2023	Poor	226
35	Haryana	Kurukshetra	03.11.2023	Very Poor	321
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	319
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	330
			06.11.2023	Poor	272
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	303
			08.11.2023	Poor	294
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	348
36	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	03.11.2023	Moderate	174
			04.11.2023	Moderate	186
			05.11.2023	Poor	274
			06.11.2023	Poor	251
			07.11.2023	Poor	237
			08.11.2023	Poor	235
			09.11.2023	Poor	265
37	Punjab	Ludhiana	03.11.2023	Poor	228
			04.11.2023	Poor	289
			05.11.2023	Poor	243
			06.11.2023	Poor	282
			07.11.2023	Poor	239
			08.11.2023	Poor	292
			09.11.2023	Poor	285
38	Punjab	Mandi Gobindgarh	03.11.2023	Poor	277
			04.11.2023	Poor	277
			05.11.2023	Poor	291
			06.11.2023	Poor	256
			07.11.2023	Poor	202
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	338
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	357
39	Haryana	Manesar	03.11.2023	Very Poor	372
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	361
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	381
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	320
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	326
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	364
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	391
40	Haryana	Narnaul	03.11.2023	Poor	286
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	329
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	377

			06.11.2023	Very Poor	341
			07.11.2023	Poor	275
			08.11.2023	Poor	298
			09.11.2023	Poor	282
41	Maharashtra	Navi Mumbai	03.11.2023	Poor	228
			04.11.2023	Poor	219
			05.11.2023	Poor	267
			06.11.2023	Poor	261
			07.11.2023	Poor	239
			08.11.2023	Moderate	160
			09.11.2023	Moderate	113
42	Uttar Pradesh	Noida	03.11.2023	Severe	440
			04.11.2023	Severe	408
			05.11.2023	Severe	414
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	384
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	355
			08.11.2023	Severe	405
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	394
43	Haryana	Panipat	03.11.2023	Insufficient Data	
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	303
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	346
			06.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Date
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	328
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	323
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	323
44	Bihar	Patna	03.11.2023	Moderate	177
			04.11.2023	Poor	218
			05.11.2023	Poor	238
			06.11.2023	Poor	265
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	324
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	309
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	326
45	Bihar	Purnia	03.11.2023	Poor	220
			04.11.2023	Poor	222
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	305
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	339
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	307
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	348
			09.11.2023	Severe	409
46	Bihar	Rajgir	03.11.2023	Poor	250
			04.11.2023	Poor	249

			05.11.2023	Poor	280
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	312
			07.11.2023	Moderate	129
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	305
			09.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Date
47	Haryana	Rohtak	03.11.2023	Severe	242
			04.11.2023	Very Poor	320
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	362
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	334
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	326
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	362
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	352
48	Haryana	Sirsa	03.11.2023	Poor	236
			04.11.2023	Severe	414
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	390
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	306
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	334
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	319
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	310
49	Haryana	Sonipat	03.11.2023	Severe	455
			04.11.2023	Severe	416
			05.11.2023	Insufficient Date	Insufficient Date
			06.11.2023	Severe	417
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	381
			08.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Date
			09.11.2023	Severe	429
50	Rajasthan	Sri Ganganagar	03.11.2023	Very Poor	378
			04.11.2023	Severe	440
			05.11.2023	Very Poor	385
			06.11.2023	Very Poor	310
			07.11.2023	Very Poor	389
			08.11.2023	Very Poor	351
			09.11.2023	Very Poor	345
51	Maharashtra	Thane	03.11.2023	Moderate	148
			04.11.2023	Moderate	156
			05.11.2023	Moderate	159
			06.11.2023	Moderate	144
			07.11.2023	Poor	202
			08.11.2023	Moderate	199

			09.11.2023	Moderate	132
52	Rajasthan	Tonk	03.11.2023	Poor	214
			04.11.2023	Poor	268
			05.11.2023	Poor	228
			06.11.2023	Poor	214
			07.11.2023	Poor	248
			08.11.2023	Poor	231
			09.11.2023	Poor	272
53	Gujarat	Vapi	03.11.2023	Insufficient Data	Insufficient Date
			04.11.2023	Moderate	182
			05.11.2023	Moderate	152
			06.11.2023	Moderate	145
			07.11.2023	Moderate	137
			08.11.2023	Moderate	160
			09.11.2023	Moderate	149

5. The above chart clearly depicts that the concerned authorities somewhere are lacking in making the desired efforts which could bring about improvement in the air quality.

6. The reports have been filed by the State of Bihar, Punjab Pollution Control Board, State of MP, Gujarat Pollution Control Board, State of Haryana, State of UP, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana, Punjab, Environment Department, Govt. of H.P, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR & Adjoining Areas. We have perused these reports and also have heard the Learned Counsels for the parties. We find that in these reports mostly long-term action plans for controlling the air pollution have been mentioned but, direction of the Tribunal to take “immediate remedial action”, has not been fully complied with. Though, the Counsels for the parties have stated that adequate action has been taken to control the pollution but a perusal of the chart reproduced above does not depict any significant improvement. The concerned State Authorities

and the Chief Secretaries, therefore, are required to review their approach and come up with adequate measures so that the air quality in the concerned cities improves. This may require identification of major contributing source of pollution causing deterioration of air quality and to take immediate steps to control it. This is all the more necessary as in the forthcoming Diwali festival and prevailing contributory factors, the air quality may dip further.

7. The issue needs to be considered by the concerned authorities with full seriousness as a dip in the air quality has serious adverse effect on the health of general public especially infants and elderly. Thus, we direct all the Chief Secretaries of the States where cities' AQI is dipped or continued to be severe, very poor and poor, to take all possible immediate remedial measures and ensure that the air quality improves in those cities. Let a further action taken report be filed within 10 days by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

8. A copy of this order be forwarded to the concerned Chief Secretaries of the States by email for compliance.

9. List the matter on 22.11.2023.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 10, 2023
Original Application No. 687/2023
JG