

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

Original Application No. 21/2025

News Item titled "Toxic kilns pollution Aravallis; wildlife and locals suffer" appearing in the Tribune dated 28.12.2024

Date of hearing: 22.01.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Toxic kilns pollution Aravallis; wildlife and locals suffer" appearing in the Tribune dated 28.12.2024.

2. The news item relates to significant environmental challenges faced by the Aravalli region, particularly near Tauru region along the Rajasthan Haryana border due to the proliferation of illegal scrap kilns. As per the article, these portable kilns, numbering over a dozen, operate openly without authorization, burning vehicle scrap particularly rubber tyres to produce flattened sheets used as fuel by brick kiln owners. The combustion process emits toxic fumes, leading to severe health issues among local residents and displacing wildlife from their natural habitats. The article reports that these kilns are severely polluting the soil and water, causing the loss of cattle and a decline in public health. The toxic fumes are also making people ill. The article further highlights that despite repeated assurances, no stringent action has been taken by the concerned authorities. It is alleged that both Haryana and Rajasthan keep on shifting the blame on each other, while the issue continues openly.

3. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Environment Protection Act, 1986 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981

4. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

6. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

- (1). Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary, C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula, Haryana – 134109.
- (2). Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary, 4, Jhalana Institutional Area, JhalanaDoongri, Jaipur- 302004.
- (3). Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary, "Parivesh Bhawan", East Arjun Nagar, Delhi- 110032.
- (4). Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Regional Office, Jaipur, A-209 & 218, 'Aranya Bhawan', Mahatma Gandhi Road, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur (Raj.) – 304002.
- (5). Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change - Regional Office, Chandigarh, Bays No. 24-25, Sector 31 A, Dakshin Marg, Chandigarh – 160030.

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate, then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

8. List on 05.05.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

January 22, 2025
Original Application No. 21/2025
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