

**BEFORE 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: 26.09.2025

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

Respondents: Ms. Praveena Gautam, Mr. Pawan Shukla, Ms. Tissy A. Thomas & Mr. Rohan Bansla, Advs. for MoEF & CC
Mr. Srinivas Vishven, Adv. for CPCB

ORDER

1. In this original application, the Tribunal is examining the issue of rising ground level ozone pollution across Indian major cities.
2. The Central Pollution Control Board (for short, "CPCB") has filed the reply dated 25.09.2025 disclosing that the ozone levels were analysed in 10 regions cited in the news report covering 178 monitoring locations, namely, i. Delhi-National Capital Region (57 stations), ii. Mumbai Metropolitan Region (45 stations), iii. Kolkata Metropolitan Area (10 stations), iv. Greater Hyderabad (14 stations), v. Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (11 stations), vi. Chennai Metropolitan Area (7 stations), vii. Pune Metropolitan Region (12 stations), viii. Greater Ahmedabad (10 stations), ix. Greater Lucknow (6 stations) and x. Greater Jaipur (6 stations). The summary of observations by the CPCB on the basis of the ozone level analysis of the given locations is disclosed in the report as follows:

"Summary of Observations:

- The 8-hourly exceedance (>2%) of ozone during 2023 observed at 65 locations out of 178 locations monitored. The region-wise exceedance observed are such as Delhi-NCR 25 out of 57 - monitoring locations, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) 22 out of 45 monitoring locations, Pune 6 out of 12 monitoring locations, Jaipur - 5 out of 6 monitoring locations, Hyderabad - 2 out of 14 monitoring locations, Bengaluru - 1 out of 11 monitoring locations, Chennai -1 out of 7 monitoring locations, Ahmedabad -1 out of 10 monitoring locations, Lucknow -1 out of 6 monitoring locations and Kolkata -1 out of 10 monitoring locations.
- The 1-hourly exceedance (>2%) of ozone during 2023 observed at 9 locations out of 178 locations monitored. The region-wise exceedance observed are such as Delhi-NCR - 4 out of 57 monitoring locations, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) - 4 out - of 45 monitoring locations and Pune - 1 out of 12 monitoring locations.
- The 1-hourly exceedance (>2%) of ozone during **summer 2023** observed at 10 out of 178 locations monitored. The region-wise exceedance observed are such as Delhi-NCR-6 out of 57 monitoring locations, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) - 3 out of 45 monitoring locations and Pune 1 out of 12 monitoring locations. -
- The 1-hourly exceedance (>2%) of ozone during **summer 2024** observed at 24 out of 178 locations monitored. The region-wise exceedance observed are such as Delhi-NCR-21 out of 57 monitoring locations, Chennai - 2 out of 7 monitoring locations and Hyderabad-1 out of 14 monitoring locations. -
- The 1-hourly exceedance (>2%) of ozone in night time during 2023 observed at 8 out of 178 locations monitored. The region-wise exceedance observed are such as Delhi-NCR 6 out of 57 - monitoring locations, Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) - 1 out of 45 monitoring locations and Pune 1 out of 12 monitoring locations. -
- The Delhi-NCR and Mumbai Metropolitan Regions reported higher exceedances of ozone concentration compared to other regions. The tropospheric or ground-level ozone is formed primarily from complex non-linear photochemical reactions between two major classes of air pollutants, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). Besides, Carbon monoxide (CO) and methane (CH₄) emitted by residential and agricultural sources also play a role in ozone formation. These reactions typically depend upon the presence of heat and sunlight, resulting in higher ambient ozone concentrations in summer months.

The elevated levels may be attributed to emissions from the transport sector, power plants, and industrial activities, which collectively contribute to the overall NO_x emission load. Additionally, ozone precursors may also originate from natural sources, including biogenic emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), soil-based emissions of NO_x, wildfire-induced emissions of carbon monoxide (CO), and methane emissions from the biosphere.

It is further submitted that, in a similar matter before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 605 of 2024, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) filed a report dated 20.12.2024. In the said report, a study was proposed to identify and recommend specific measures for planning and controlling the sources of ozone and its precursors.

Further, in this matter, MoEFCC recommended constitution of an Expert Committee comprising of specialist of experts in this relevant field and submit report in a time-bound manner as mentioned in the CPCB report and the findings thereof will be placed before the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Vide Order dated 21.8.25 in the matter, Hon'ble NGT has granted four weeks' time to MoEFCC to indicate the proposed Terms of Reference for the Expert Committee and the experts who are proposed to be included in that Committee. Matter is listed on 12.11.2025."

3. Learned Counsel for the CPCB has submitted that in OA No. 605/2024 in the report of the CPCB, a study has been proposed to identify and recommend specific measures for planning and controlling the sources of ozone and its precursors and formation of the Expert Committee has also been recommended by the MoEF&CC and the said issue is in progress in that OA.
4. In this background, learned Counsel for the CPCB made a prayer for listing this OA alongwith OA No. 605/2024. The prayer is allowed.
5. List alongwith OA No. 605/2024 on 12.11.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

September 26, 2025
Original Application No. 1069/2024
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