



## NGT Issues Notice Over Gas Leak in Jaipur | Rajasthan | 31 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

The [National Green Tribunal \(NGT\)](#) has directed [the Central Pollution Control Board](#) and Jaipur's District Magistrate to respond to a case involving the hospitalization of several students following a **suspected gas leak in Jaipur**.

### Key Points

- **The Incident:**
  - The NGT took [suo motu cognisance](#) on a suspected gas leak incident in Jaipur.
    - The incident, which occurred on 15th December 2024 in the Mahesh Nagar area, resulted in the **hospitalization of 10 students from a coaching institute after they fainted due to the leak from a nearby drain.**
- **Observations by the Tribunal:**
  - The Tribunal noted that **no compensation for the victims** was mentioned in the report.
  - The Bench highlighted significant issues concerning compliance with [the Public Liability Insurance Act 1991](#) and [the Environment \(Protection\) Act 1986](#).
  - **Notices were issued to the respondents**, directing them to file their responses or replies.
  - The Tribunal included as **respondents the following parties:**
    - **Member secretaries** of the Central Pollution Control Board and Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board.
    - Jaipur's District Magistrate.
    - The **regional office** of [the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change](#).

### The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- It is a statutory organisation, was constituted in 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- CPCB was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate change of the provisions of [the Environment \(Protection\) Act, 1986](#).

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# NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

## About

- 🕒 **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- 🎯 **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- 🕒 **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- 📍 **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

## Structure

- 👤 **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- 🕒 **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- 👤 **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
  - 👤 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

## Powers & Jurisdiction

- 👤 **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- 🕒 **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- 👤 **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- 👤 **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
  - 👤 Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- 👤 **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- 👤 **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- 👤 **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
  - 👤 If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

## NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- 👤 Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- 👤 Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- 👤 Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- 👤 Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- 👤 Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- 👤 Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- 👤 Biological Diversity Act, 2002



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## Rajasthan Government Dissolves 9 Districts | Rajasthan | 31 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

- Recently, the Rajasthan government [dissolved nine districts and three divisions](#) created in 2023.

### Key Points

- **Reorganization of Districts and Divisions:**
  - Rajasthan will now have **41 districts and seven divisions**.
  - The divisions of Pali, Sikar, and Banswara have been annulled.

- Eight districts were **retained due to "administrative necessity."**
- **Abolished Districts:**
  - Dudu, Kekri, Shahpura, Neem Ka Thana, Gangapur City, Jaipur Rural, Jodhpur Rural, Anupgarh, and Sanchore.
- **Retained Districts:**
  - Balotra, Beawar, Deeg, Didwana-Kuchaman, Kotputli-Behror, Khairthal-Tijara, Phalodi, and Salumbar.
- **Administrative Issues with New Districts:**
  - **Lack of Infrastructure:**
    - New districts lacked office buildings, administrative infrastructure, and official posts, despite the lapse of over a year.
    - The creation of 18 departmental posts proved to be burdensome.
- **Committee Recommendations:**
  - **A High-Level Committee report** recommended abolishing the new districts, finding them unviable.
  - **A Cabinet Sub-Committee** was also formed to review the status of these districts.

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## Cow-Based Natural Farming in UP | Uttar Pradesh | 31 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister** stated that **cow-based natural farming can boost farmers' incomes** by saving Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,000 per acre.

- He highlighted the **substantial collective savings** possible if most farmers in the state adopt this practice.

### Key Points

- **Benefits of Cow-Based Farming:**
  - **Reduces agricultural costs** while **conserving cattle**.
  - **Enhances soil, water, and human health** over the long term.
- **Current Dependency on Inputs:**
  - **Seeds:**
    - Uttar Pradesh produces only half of its seed requirement, importing the rest from other states, especially southern India, at high costs.
  - **Fertilisers:**
    - India relies heavily on imports for **fertilisers**, particularly **urea, phosphates, and potash**.
    - Urea imports alone cost Rs 2,127 crore in 2023–2024.
      - Exporting nations often **hike prices due to India's high demand**.
- **Potential of Cow-Based Natural Farming:**
  - Experts highlight its potential to save **foreign currency** spent on fertiliser imports.
  - **Uttar Pradesh** has 2.78 crore farmers and approximately 2 crore cattle, **providing a strong foundation** for cow-based farming.
    - A single cow's dung and urine can support farming on nearly four acres of land.
- **Government Initiatives:**
  - **Self-Sustaining Shelters:** **Cow shelters** are being developed as **training hubs** for cow-based natural farming.
  - **Dedicated Universities:** Plans to establish **natural farming universities** to integrate traditional methods with modern technology.
  - **Financial Assistance:** Farmers receive **financial support over three years**, Rs 4,800 in

the first year, Rs 4,000 in the second, and Rs 3,600 in the third.

- Grants are also available for cattle sheds and [biogas plants](#).
- **Product Marketing:** Dedicated **outlets have been established** at divisional headquarters to **promote natural farming products**.
  - The government is prioritizing **product certification to enhance consumer trust and market credibility**.
- **Rising Demand for Organic Products:**
  - **Post-Covid**, there is **greater demand for organic**, regionally sourced products.
  - Research institutions highlight a growing preference for healthier food options with regional flavors.

## Natural Farming

- It is a method of agriculture that seeks to **create a balanced and self-sustaining ecosystem** in which crops can grow without the use of synthetic chemicals or genetically modified organisms.
  - Instead of relying on artificial inputs like synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, natural farmers rely on techniques like [crop rotation](#), [intercropping](#), and [composting](#) to enhance soil health and support crop growth.
- Natural farming methods are **often based on traditional knowledge and practices and may be adapted to local conditions** and resources.
  - The goal of natural farming is to **produce healthy, nutritious food** in a way that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

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## Drone Show in Mahakumbh 2025 | Uttar Pradesh | 31 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government plans to organize a **drone show** during [the Mahakumbh 2025](#), **depicting mythological tales** associated with the Mahakumbh and Prayagraj.

### Key Points

- **Highlights of the Drone Show:**
  - A fleet of 2,000 illuminated drones will narrate the **legendary tales of 'Prayag Mahatmyam' and the Mahakumbh**.
  - Iconic events like the **mythical Samudra Manthan (ocean churning)** and the **emergence of the Amrit Kalash (nectar pot)** will be visually recreated.
- **Objective:**
  - The show aims to **highlight the religious and spiritual significance of Prayagraj**, providing a unique experience for pilgrims and locals.
- **Preparations for Mahakumbh:**
  - The Mahakumbh, held every twelve years, is **scheduled from 13<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.
  - The state government is **focusing on developing and beautifying temples, Ganga ghats, parks, roads, and flyovers** in Prayagraj.
  - The **Chief Minister has conducted multiple visits to Prayagraj** to oversee the progress of the preparations.

## Kumbh Mela



- It is the largest peaceful congregation of pilgrims on earth, during which participants bathe or take a dip in a sacred river. This gathering takes place at 4 different places, namely:
  - In **Haridwar**, on the banks of **the Ganges**.
  - In **Ujjain**, on the banks of **Shipra**.
  - In **Nashik**, on the banks of **Godavari (Dakshin Ganga)**.
  - In **Prayagraj**, at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna, and the mythical invisible **Saraswati**.
- **Different Types of Kumbh:**
  - The **Kumbh Mela** is celebrated **4 times over a course of 12 years**.
  - At **Haridwar and Prayagraj**, **Ardh-Kumbh Mela** is held **every 6th year**.
  - The **Maha Kumbh Mela** is celebrated at Prayag after 144 years (after 12 'Purna Kumbh Melas').
  - **Maagh Kumbh** is celebrated **every year** in the month of **Maagh (Jan-Feb)** in **Prayagraj**.

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## Defence Minister Visit to Army War College at Mhow | Madhya Pradesh | 31 Dec 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, **the Union Defence Minister** visited the **Army War College, Mhow** in Madhya Pradesh. He pointed out **'unconventional methods' of warfare as new challenges** before the nation.

### Key Points

- **Challenges in Modern Warfare:**
  - New forms of warfare such as **information warfare**, **AI-based warfare**, **proxy warfare**, **electro-magnetic warfare**, **space warfare**, and **cyber-attacks** are emerging as major challenges.
  - Dominance in **electronic chip production** and monopolies on **rare earth materials** are also contributing to these challenges.
  - **Hybrid warfare** and **Greyzone warfare** further complicate security concerns.
- **Role of Mhow Training Centres:**
  - In this complex environment, it is crucial for the Indian Army to remain **well-trained and equipped for all potential threats**.
  - The training centres in Mhow play a significant role in preparing the forces for these modern challenges.
  - Mhow has been known for its **military excellence for over 200 years**, making its training centres vital to the Army's preparedness.
- **Integration and Jointness Among Forces:**
  - The government is focused on increasing **integration and jointness among the three military branches**.
  - This approach aims to better equip the forces to handle future challenges.
  - **Mhow Cantonment offers high-level training to officers** from all branches of the military.
- **Vision for India's Development:**
  - India's goal is to become a **developed nation by 2047**, viewing the current period as a time of transition.
  - The Indian military is **continuously upgrading with modern weapons**, not only equipping its own forces but also exporting domestically manufactured equipment to other

countries.

▪ **Defence Minister's Visit:**

- The Defence Minister visited **the Bhim Janm Bhoomi memorial** dedicated to **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, where he paid tribute to **the architect of the Indian Constitution**.
- He praised Dr. Ambedkar as a symbol of selfless service, dedicated to **social equality and empowerment**.

## Grey-zone Warfare

- It refers to **a form of conflict characterised by actions that fall below the threshold of conventional war** but are intended to achieve strategic objectives through **ambiguity, deniability, and coercion**.
- In grey-zone warfare, adversaries employ tactics such as **cyberattacks, economic coercion, and proxy conflicts** to achieve their goals without directly engaging in open warfare.
- It blurs the lines between peace and conflict, posing significant challenges to **international security and stability**.

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/31-12-2024/print>

