



NGT Issues Notice Over Gas Leak in Jaipur

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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