

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

Why in News?

The <u>National Green Tribunal (NGT)</u> has directed <u>the Central Pollution Control Board</u> and Jaipur's District Magistrate to respond to a case involving the hospitalization of several students following a <u>suspected gas leak in Jaipur</u>.

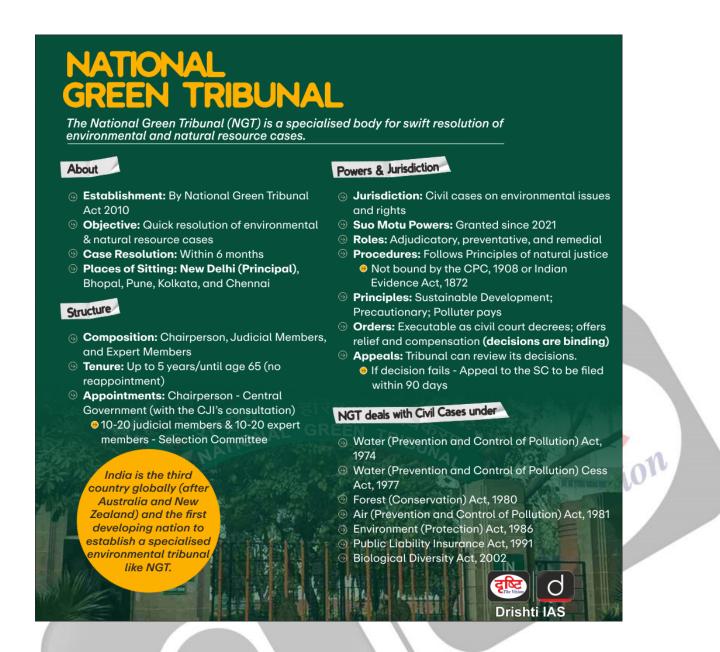
Key Points

- 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 <u>the Public Liability</u> <u>Insurance Act 1991</u> and <u>the Environment (Protection) Act 1986.</u>
 - 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.

II



Rajasthan Government Dissolves 9 Districts | Rajasthan | 31 Dec 2024

Why in News?

 Recently, the Rajasthan government <u>dissolved nine districts and three divisions</u> 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.

