



## 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](#).

# 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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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/01-01-2025/rajasthan/print>

