



HARYANA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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HSPCB/WC/I/270398/2025

Dated:- 28-04-2025

To

1. Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., of Haryana, Town and Country planning and Urban State Department, Haryana, Chandigarh
2. Principal Chief Converter of Forest, Sec- 06, Panchkula.
3. Divisional Commissioner, Gurugram, Division, Gurugram.
4. Divisional Commissioner, Faridabad, Division, Faridabad
5. Inspector, General of Police, Law and order, Haryana, Panchkula.
6. Director, Tourism Haryana, Chandigarh.
7. Director, Mining and Geology Department, Haryana, Chandigarh
8. Deputy Commissioners, Gurugram, Faridabad, Nuh, Mohindergarh, Bhiwani, Rewari & Charkhi Dadri
9. Chief Conservator of Forest (South) Haryana.
10. The Regional Officers, GR (North), GR (South), Faridabad, Nuh, Mohindergarh, Yamuna Nagar, Bhiwani, Rewari & Charkhi Dadri

Sub: Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Anand Mohan Sharan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department on 11.4.2025 at 11:00 AM in Haryana Civil Secretariat, 9th floor, Sector 1, Chandigarh to review the action taken by the departments on the compliance of decisions taken by the Chief Secretary, Haryana in the meeting held on 03.06.2024 w.r.t order dated 9.5.2024 in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in MC Mehta case, meeting held on 18.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Add. Chief Secretary Environment regarding order dated 11.12.2023 in OA NO. 362 of 2022 in the matter of Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movements v/s Union of India & Other, order dated 5.9.2023 in OA No. 866 of 2022 in the matter of Vikram vs State of Haryana and order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S. Khatana vs State of Haryana.

Kindly refer to the subject noted above.

In this connection, please find enclosed herewith the copy of minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Anand Mohan Sharan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department on 11.4.2025 at 11:00 AM in Haryana Civil Secretariat, 9th floor, Sector 1, Chandigarh to review the action taken by the departments on the compliance of decisions taken by the Chief Secretary, Haryana in the meeting held on 03.06.2024 w.r.t order dated 9.5.2024 in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in MC Mehta case, meeting held on 18.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Add. Chief Secretary Environment regarding order dated 11.12.2023 in OA NO. 362 of 2022 in the matter of Aravalli Bachao Citizens

Movements v/s Union of India & Other, order dated 5.9.2023 in OA No. 866 of 2022 in the matter of Vikram vs State of Haryana and order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S. Khatana vs State of Haryana. for information and further necessary action please.

DA/As above

**Sr. Env. Engineer (HQ)
For Chairman**

Endst: No. HSPCB I/270398/2025

Dated 28-04-2025

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information please

1. The Chairperson, Haryana Water Resources Authority, Panchkula.
2. Financial Commissioner Revenue, Govt. of Haryana.

Digitally signed by
JATINDERPAL SINGH
Date: 28-04-2025
15:01:22
**Sr. Env. Engineer
For Chairman**

Subject: Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Anand Mohan Sharan, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department on 11.4.2025 at 11:00 AM in Haryana Civil Secretariat, 9th floor, Sector 1, Chandigarh to review the action taken by the departments on the compliance of decisions taken by the Chief Secretary, Haryana in the meeting held on 03.06.2024 w.r.t order dated 9.5.2024 in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in MC Mehta case, meeting held on 18.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Add. Chief Secretary Environment regarding order dated 11.12.2023 in OA NO. 362 of 2022 in the matter of Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movements v/s Union of India & Other, order dated 5.9.2023 in OA No. 866 of 2022 in the matter of Vikram vs State of Haryana and order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S. Khatana vs State of Haryana

The list of the participants is as per **Annexure-1**

At the outset, ACS, Environment welcomed all the participants present in the meeting and apprised that the meeting has been called to review the action taken by the departments on the compliance of decisions taken by the Chief Secretary, Haryana in the meeting held on 03.06.2024 w.r.t order dated 9.5.2024 in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in MC Mehta case, meeting held on 18.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Add. Chief Secretary Environment regarding order dated 11.12.2023 in OA NO. 362 of 2022 in the matter of Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movements v/s Union of India & Other, order dated 5.9.2023 in OA No. 866 of 2022 in the matter of Vikram vs State of Haryana and order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S. Khatana vs State of Haryana

Thereafter, Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB presented the agenda as under:.

A. Compliance of decisions taken by the Chief Secretary, Haryana in the meeting held on 03.06.2024 with respect to order dated 9.5.2024 in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in MC Mehta case

It was submitted that in order to make compliance of order dated 9.5.2024 of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 in MC Mehta case, the Chief Secretary, Haryana held meeting with the concerned departments on 03.06.2024 and following decisions were taken.

- I. A Committee of Administrative Secretary Forests & Environment, Mines & Geology, Tourism and Director Town & Country Planning may consider the definition and area of Aravalli Hills and Ranges by taking the benchmark fixed by FSI for the Rajasthan State for the Haryana State as well within a week;

- II. The Forest Department shall do contouring of the Aravalli area and thereafter, Mines & Geology Department will superimpose their mining area, over the area of Aravalli Hills and Ranges within a weeks after (i) above; as mentioned in the mining leases.
- III. Environment Department to prepare draft affidavit with regard to comments on CEC reports in co-ordination with all line departments;
- IV. Steps taken for compliance of earlier 15 judgments of the Apex Court be also incorporated in the affidavit within 10 days;
- V. List out the action CAG/CEC reports on illegal mining and prosecution carried out thereon within 10 days; and
- VI. Application for grant/renewal of mining leases may be processed but no final permission shall be granted within a period of 15 days;
- VII. The draft affidavit shall be submitted by ACS-Environment for approval of the Chief Secretary by 30.06.2024.

Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB further informed that review meeting in the above matter was also taken by the Chairman HSPCB on 26.12.2024 and all the departments were asked to take action on all the points within certain time period as mentioned in the minutes of the meeting and now the matter has been placed in the meeting being held under ACS, Environment.

With regard to point no. i as mentioned above, It was submitted that the matter is being considered in the meeting being held under Chief Secretary, Haryana on 11.4.2025 at 4.30 PM for further action/decisions in the matter. **Therefore, it was decided that it shall not be appropriate to consider this matter in this meeting**

Regarding point no. ii , Department of Forest informed that contouring map has been done for all the seven Aravalli districts and shared with all the concerned departments. Watershed map is also available on the forest map portal of Forest Department.

After deliberation in the matter, it was decided that Mines & Geology Department shall superimpose their mining area over the area of Aravalli Hills by 18.4.2025 on the contour map of Aravalli area and Ranges prepared by the Department of Forest.

With regard to points iii to vii as mentioned above, detailed deliberation on all the above points and the following decisions were taken

- a. **Draft affidavit with regard to comments on CEC report & its recommendations, steps taken for compliance of earlier 15 judgments of the Apex Court, shall be prepared by jointly by department of Mines & Geology and Department of Forest 30.4.2025 and same may be sent to the**

HSPCB for its further submission to ACS Environment for approval of the Chief Secretary, Haryana.

- b. The department of Mines & Geology shall list out the action on CEC reports on illegal mining and prosecution carried out by 18.4.2025**
 - c. Applications for grant/renewal of mining leases may be processed by the department of Mines & Geology but no final permission shall be granted without the permission of the Hon'ble Apex Court.**
- B. Review of the action taken by the departments on the compliance of the decisions taken in the meeting held on 18.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Add. Chief Secretary, Environment in OA No. 362 of 2022 in the matter of Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movements v/s Union of India.**

Dr Babu Ram, Technical Expert, HSPCB presented the point-wise agenda based on the decisions taken in 4th meeting of the committee (constituted by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide its order dated 11.12.2023) held on 18.07.2025 as under:

- 1. Compilation of directions/orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal w.r.t imposition and realization of environment compensation on illegal mining and transportation.**

The detailed deliberation was made and it was decided as under:

The Department of Mines and Geology and Department of Forest shall submit their statement in writing stating that there is no other such order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal with regard to imposition and realization of environmental compensation on illegal mining and its transportation by 18.4.2025

- 2. Methodology to be adopted for enforcement and monitoring to prevent illegal mining and transportation of illegal mined material**

The Department of Forest informed that for providing estimates for deployment of 713 home guards in 07 districts, letter dated 27.01.2025 has been written to Commandant General, Home Guard, Chandigarh. In the meanwhile, it has been suggested to deploy Forest Protection Watcher in these districts.

The detailed deliberation was made and it was decided as under:

- i. The Department of Forest shall deploy appropriate number of home guards/ Forest Protection Watcher at appropriate places in 07 districts namely Nuh, Gurugram, Faridabad, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Bhiwani and**

Charkhi Dadari as and when their appointment is made by the department. Check Posts along with requisite infrastructure may also be provided at appropriate locations of these districts in a time bound manner.

- ii. **The Department of Mines and Geology shall comply with all the remaining 10 points of Annexure 2 (copy enclosed) relating to prevention of illegal mining and transportation of illegal mined material and compliance report in this regard may be submitted to HSPCB by 18.4.2025.**

3. Finalization of Aravalli Rejuvenation Plan of each of 07 Districts.

Department of Forest informed that an estimate of Rs. 3.57 Crores for 5 years plan of development and implementation of plantation modals for afforestation and restoration of Aravalli Hills has been prepared by ICFRE, Deharadun and the same has been received by department of forest. The Forest Department further submitted that the department has also prepared a proposal for Rs. 21 Crores from Environment Compensation funds for deployment of forest guards and providing them machinery/ vehicles to them for restoration activities.

HSPCB submitted that Aravalli Rejuvenation plans of 07 Districts (Nuh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Mohindragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani) have been received through the Deputy Commissioner of concerned district but these plans can be finalized after the completion of baseline study/survey of each of illegal mining sites of 07 districts. The department of forest has to submit the details of funds required for baseline study / survey of each of 07 district to HSPCB.

The detailed deliberation with respect to finalization of Aravalli Rejuvenation Plan of each of 07 Districts was made and it was decided as under:

- i. **The Department of Forest shall submit the details of funds required by 18.4.2025 and thereafter, HSPCB shall put up the case separately for release of funds to the Forest Department from the environment compensation funds available with the HSPCB to the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department.**
- ii. **HSPCB shall submit the Aravalli Rejuvenation plans of 07 Districts (Nuh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Mohindragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani) received through the Deputy Commissioner of concerned district to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in compliance of order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No.291 of 2021 in the matter of H. S. Khatana vs State of Haryana along with complied action taken report on points 4 to 18 of order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 (pages 1109 to 1115 of the order) by 7.5.2025 by getting the same from the departments namely Department of police, Department of Mines and Geology, Department of Forest and HSPCB by 21.4.2025.**
- iii. **These Aravalli Rejuvenation plans of 07 districts may be further updated after the completion of baseline study.**

4. Action taken on imposition and realization of environmental compensation funds as per SOP prepared by HSPCB.

Mines and Geology department submitted that details of the illegal mining sites, identified in each of the 07 districts (Nuh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Mohindragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani) by the field officers, mentioning the name of the site & its coordinates, area of illegal mining site, quantity of illegal mined material, have been sent to the concerned Regional Officers of HSPCB and environment compensation with respect to each illegal mining site has been assessed by Mining Officer of concerned district but the report has not been accepted by Hon'ble NGT.

The matter was deliberated and it was decided as under.

Department of Mines and Geology shall submit the record with respect to details of the illegal mining sites of each of 07 districts (Nuh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Mohindragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani) mentioning the name of the site & its coordinates, area of illegal mining site, quantity of illegal mined material and assessment of environmental compensation on these illegal mining sites of 07 districts made jointly by Regional Officers of HSPCB and Mining Officer of the concerned District to HSPCB (Headquarter) by 18.4.2025 and thereafter, the Department of Mines and Geology and HSPCB shall verify the assessment/calculation made by the field officers (Regional Officer, HSPCB and Mining Officer of the concerned District) based on SOP dated 30.4.2024 prepared by HSPCB by 10.5.2025.

5. Monitoring the Compliance of environment norms by the departments.

The detailed discussion was held and it was decided as under:

- i. **Department of Mines and Geology shall submit the report on compliance of environment norms as mentioned in the checklist (Annexure 3) by 18.4.2025**
- ii. **Department of Mines and Geology, Department of Forest and HSPCB shall continue to submit the report on the compliance of environment norms as per the checklist prepared by them (Annexure 3, 4 and 5) by 30.4.2025.**

6. Uploading the minutes of the meeting and report/recommendation of the committee on website by Department of Mines & Geology.

It was apprised by the Department of Mines & Geology that the all the earlier minutes of meeting of the committee, constituted by Hon"ble Tribunal, have been uploaded by the department on its website.

It was decided that all further minutes of the meeting of the committee, constituted by Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 11.12.2023 in OA No. 362 of 2022, may continue to be uploaded by the Department of Mines and Geology on its website.

7. Precautionary/preventive steps to control illegal mining.

Department of Mines & Geology informed that drone survey of mining areas of districts namely Rewari and Mahendragarh has been carried out and no further illegal mining has been found in these districts..

The Committee noted the progress and it was decided as under.

- i. **Department of Mines & Geology shall continue to use the facilities of drone with advanced cameras to identify illegal mining sites in each of 07 districts once in 03 months and report in this regard may be submitted to HSPCB on quarterly basis.**
- ii. **Real time monitoring of check posts [provided in each of 07 districts (Nuh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Mohindragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani)] having 24x7 CCTV coverage and footage facilities may be started by the Mining Department, District Administration of each district and members of District Level Task Force by 18.4.2025.**

8. Environmental Compensation record.

The matter was discussed in detail and it was decided as under:

- i. **Department of Mines and Geology and Department of Forest shall supply the record regarding FIR lodged by them against the illegal mining, which may contain the data like name of illegal mining site and its coordinates, area of illegal mining site, quantity of illegal mined material by 18.4.2025**
- ii. **The Department of Mines and Geology and HSPCB shall jointly calculate / assess the amount of environmental compensation to be imposed on illegal mining sites as per SOP prepared by HSPCB and realization of the same, if any by 30.4.2025**
- iii. **Based on the above data, Regional Officer, HSPCB of concerned District shall prepare environmental compensation record by 15.5.2025. Further, Regional Officer, HSPCB of concerned District shall continue to maintain / prepare environment compensation record on quarterly basis.**

9. Ecological restoration/rejuvenation of illegal mining sites.

The matter was discussed in detail and it was decided as under:

- i. The Department of Mines & Geology shall supply the detailed data with regard to illegal mining sites & their area of each of 07 districts to the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA) by 30.4.2025. HWRA shall prepare its proposal for restoring ground water recharging zone of illegal mining sites of 07 districts (Nuh, Gurugram, Faridabad, Rewari, Mahendragarh, Charkhi Dadri & Bhiwani) by 31.5.2025.
- ii. Department of Mines and Geology shall submit the legal status of all illegal mining sites of 07 districts by 30.4.2025.
- iii. Department of Mines and Geology, Department of Forest and HSPCB shall continue to submit the report on the compliance of environment norms as per the checklist prepared by them (Annexure 3, 4 and 5) on quarterly basis.

10. Status of compliance on ascertainment of land use/ownership of land in compliance of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of Jagpal Singh V/s State of Punjab (2011).

The matter was considered and it was decided that reminder may be issued to the Financial Commissioner, Revenue Department to direct the concerned officer of the department to check the land use / ownership of illegal mining sites of 07 districts and report in this regard may be submitted to HSPCB by 30.4.2025

- C. Compliance of order dated 5.9.2023 in OA no. 866 of 2022 in the matter of Vikram vs State of Haryana.

The matter was discussed in detail and it was decided as under.

- i. The Department of Forest shall verify the compliance report in the matter, submitted by the mining lease holder through Regional officer, HSPCB, Yamuna Nagar and the same may be submitted to HSPCB by 30.4.2025.
- ii. Regional Officer, HSPCB, Yamuna Nagar shall take up the matter with the mining lease holder (Ganga Yamuna Mining Co., Village Bhood Majra, District Yamunanagar) for maintenance of plantation area for five years and thereafter, the plantation area may be handed over to the land owner of mining site, who shall be responsible for maintenance of the plants for further period and report in this regard may be submitted to SEE, HSPCB, Head Quarter, Panchkula for further action in the matter.

- D. Compliance of order dated 9.2.2024 in OA no. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S Khatana vs State of Haryana.

After detailed deliberation in the matter, it was decided as under.
Department of Police, Department of Mines and Geology, Department of Forest and HSPCB shall submit point wise action taken report on all the 15 points [point

4 to 18 as mentioned at pages 1109 to 1115 of order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S Khatana vs State of Haryana (copy enclosed as per Annexure-6) to HSPCB by 21.4.2025. Thereafter, HSPCB shall submit the Aravalli Rejuvenation plans of 07 Districts (Nuh, Faridabad, Gurugram, Rewari, Mohindragarh, Charkhi Dadri and Bhiwani) received through the Deputy Commissioner of concerned district to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in compliance of order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No.291 of 2021 in the matter of H. S. Khatana vs State of Haryana as mentioned in Para 15 of said order along with complied action taken report on points 4 to 18 of order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 (pages 1109 to 1115 of the order) as received from the departments by 7.5.2025.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair and all the participants.

Annexure-1

List of Participants meeting held on 11.4.2025 at 11:00 AM to review the action taken by the departments on the compliance of decisions taken by the Chief Secretary, Haryana in the meeting held on 03.06.2024 w.r.t order dated 9.5.2024 in WPC No. 4677 of 1985 before Hon^{ble} Supreme Court of India in MC Mehta case, meeting held on 18.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of Add. Chief Secretary Environment regarding order dated 11.12.2023 in OA NO. 362 of 2022 in the matter of Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movements v/s Union of India & Other, order dated 5.9.2023 in OA No. 866 of 2022 in the matter of Vikram vs State of Haryana and order dated 9.2.2024 in OA No. 291 of 2021 in the matter of H.S. Khatana vs State of Haryana

Sr. No.	List of Participants and Designation
1	Sh. Vineet Garg, PCCF.
2	Dr. Babu Ram Technical Expert, HSPCB, Panchkula.
3	Sh. AP Pandey APCCF.
4	Sh. B.N Nibmbokar CCP, NCR, HR.
5	Sh. Vijay Singh, SP Haryana Police.
6	Sh. Vijay Kumar STP (NCR) TCP, Haryana.
7	Sh. Rajpal, DDT, Tourism Department, Haryana.
8	Sh. J.P Singh SEE, HSPCB.
9	Sh. Nirmal Kumar, SEE, HSPCB.

Besides above representatives of DC, RO, DFO and Mining Officers of Faridabad, Gurugram, Palwal, Nuh, Bhiwani, Mahendargarh and Rewari were also present through V.C.

Precautionary/preventive measures to be taken to control illegal mining and transportation of illegal mined material

1. Lease boundary of mining site should be demarked with geo coordinates and geo fencing to ensure extraction of mining material within the permitted limits.
2. Quantity of sand/stone to be extracted from the mining site should be based on quantity of mining material available at site.
3. The State Government should adopt control price model in order to control illegal mining.
4. To prevent transportation of illegal mined material, all the mined material carrying vehicles should be registered with the department of Mining and Regional Transport Authority and GPS equipment should be installed in all these vehicles.
5. Weighbridges with CCTV cameras should be installed at all the stock yards.
6. Check posts with CCTV cameras should be established near all major consumption centers to check as to whether all the transporting vehicles are carrying a valid transport permit.
7. Transport permit generated should contain the following security features
 - a) Printed on Indian Bank Association approved paper.
 - b) Magnetic ink character recognition code paper.
 - c) Unique bar code
 - d) Unique quick response codes
 - e) Fugitive ink background
 - f) Invisible ink mark
 - g) Void pantograph
 - h) Water mark
8. At mining site, CCTV cameras, personal computers, laptop, internet connection, power backup, access control of mined lease area, weigh bridges etc should be provided.
9. The monitoring officer should be provided with mobile application and bar code scanner to check the validity of transport permit.
10. After scanning, unique bar code number, invoice date and time and validity of date with time are generated by the software which gets printed individual on each transport permit.
11. The facility to fetch details using mobile app, website and SMS may be made available to the general public to check the validity of the transport permit.
12. In case of breakdown of the vehicle carrying mined material, the validity of transport permit may be extended by sending SMS by the driver in the specific format to report the breakdown of the vehicle. The server shall register this information and also register the breakdown details.
13. The State can also establish a call centre, which can register breakdown of the vehicle and extend the validity period.
14. The route of the vehicle from source to destination should be tracked through the system using check points, radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and GPS tracking.

SOP for action to be taken on illegal mining:-

1. Incident of Illegal come to the notice of the department either through self inspection or through complaint.
2. In either of case, on inspection of the alleged site Aravali hilly area, the site would be inspected by the Mining Officer along with the members of district Aravali Rejuvenation Board.
3. After inspection of site, a joint shall be prepared inter-alia mentioning the dimensions of the illegal mining along with name, probable number of planted species, if any, apart from persons involved in illegal mining and details of the land owner.
4. On the basis of joint report, the Mining Officer shall initiate legal action against the persons/ panchayat involved in illegal mining, on personal/ panchayat land, including the land owner/ concerned panchayat. For which notice for recovering of penalty amount under the provisions of State Mining Rules, 2012 shall be initiated.
5. In case the penalty amount is not deposited even after issuing of 03 demand notices subsequently, then the action for recovering the same as per the provisions of Haryana Land Revenue Act through the concerned District Magistrate.

HSPCB's check list to monitor the compliance of environmental norms as per the decision taken in the meeting held on 4.1.2024 and 18.1.2024 on the issue of Aravalli Rejuvenation Plans

- Characteristics of wastewater, if any, lying generated from mining activities and its one time treatment by the Mining Department and usage of treated wastewater for its appropriate usages.
- Monitoring of surface and groundwater within 200 m radius from the mining sites once in a year.
- Ambient air quality monitoring including moisture content in the air of area around mining sites twice in a year.
- Analysis of soil samples of the area around mining sites once in a year for analysis of general parameters including humidity/moisture content, organic matter and porosity/permeability of soil.
- Monitoring noise level in and around mining site area due to mining activities and operation of trucks/vehicles used for transportation of mined material twice in a year.

Checklist of Forest Department

(Monitoring of compliance of the environmental norms in graded manner as per the Aravali Rejuvenation Plans)

A. Short term measure (1-4 years)

1. Ground truthing and delineation of the mining area:

Baseline data on inception of Aravali Rejuvenation Plan		Subsequent Data (Annual),	
Assessment of damage		Assessment of improvement	
Area M1	10 vegetation Area (m ²)	of vegetation	

2. Baseline Biodiversity Survey of Flora & Fauna and subsequent improvement noticed from Annual Monitoring.
3. Preventive measures taken to counter any further mining incidents.
4. Adequacy of existing protection measures.
5. Measures taken for restoration of mined sites:
 - a. Levelling (if req.): Annual report on requirement of levelling of mined sites.
 - b. Plantation

Annual Target	Annual Achievement	Survival Report
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B. Mid-term evaluation: (4-8 years)

1. Evaluation of improvement in soil quality by nutritional and carbon assessment annually.
2. Biodiversity assessment by monitoring species richness every 5 years.
3. Assessment of enhancement of Ground Water Levels by Central Ground Water Board.
4. Adequacy of existing protection measures.

C. Long Term: (After 8 years)

1. Evaluation of enhancement in green cover and reclamation of soil through GIS technique.

15 points [Points 4 to 18, mentioned at pages 1109 to 1115 of order dated 9.2.2024 in OAH 291 of 2024]

deposited. A report dated 08.02.2024 has been filed and it is said that issue of illegal mining in village Rithoj (Gurgaon) has been addressed by taking steps including digging trenches, constituting designated Committees etc. and various other directions have been issued. Relevant extract of the report dated 08.02.2024 is reproduced as under:-

- "4. Grievance raised in present OA, i.e., illegal mining in village Rithoj (Gurgaon) has been addressed by taking steps including digging trenches and constituting a designated committee to have regular visit at the site in question. detailed as under:-
 - (i) trenches have been digged at if e entry and exit' points of Panchayat land sand dunes to restrict any kind of vehicular movement in the area.
 - (ii) a Sign Board regarding not to do illegal mining/theft of ordinary earth in the said areas is also fixed at entry point of the Panchayat land.
 - (iii) to prevent the illegal mining instances in and around the land in question in village Rithoj District Gurugram, a Committee has been already constituted by the Gram Panchayat Rithoj comprising Sarpanch, Panch Panchayat Secretary, Chowkidar of village Rithoj. Mining Guard and Forest Guard. One Mining Guard and One Forest Guard for the strict vigil over the area of village Rithoj. This committee is visiting the land in question regularly.
 - (iv) as a result of the above mentioned steps, no instance of illegal mining has been reported in the said area. Some shrubs have also been grown up over the land in question. Apart from this, as restoration measures, the plantation work was done by the Forest Department during July & August, 2023 in 2.5 hectares of Panchayat Land of village Rithoj.
5. That the State of Haryana has constituted the "Aravali Rejuvenation Board" vide order dated 13 June 2023, to achieve the Integrated Environment Management and Sustainable Development of the Aravali Range, the details of which have been mentioned in the previous report dated 06 July 2023. This is also relevant to mention here that the District Level Task Force under the chairmanship of District Magistrate concerned examines the issue of illegal mining instances and action taken by the departments concerned thereon. Meeting of the District Level Task Force is held once in a month to review the incidents of illegal mining and action taken thereon in these districts.

6. That a Control Room has been setup in the office of Mines & Geology Officer at Faridabad. Toll Free number (1800-180-5530) has been issued for receiving the complaints of illegal mining in Aravali Range of District Faridabad, Gurugram and Nuh and to take prompt action thereon. The mail id of Control Room has also been created, i.e., aravalibachafqnomail.com. No complaint has been received regarding illegal excavation of ordinary clay as well as Gair mumkin pahar in the area of village Rithoj on toll free number, Email or written complaint.

Information about this number and email id has been circulated through leading Newspapers, i.e., Times of India, Hindustan Times, Dainik Jagran and Dainik Bhaskar etc. being widely distributed in these districts. The same has also been affixed on the Notice Board of office of the Deputy Commissioner as well as the Mining Officer of these three districts.

7. That Sign Boards have been placed in prominent places in the Aravali Areas of District Faridabad, Gurugram and Nuh indicating that mining is prohibited and same is punishable offence. Photographs of such sign boards/paintings in Gurugram and Faridabad are annexed herewith as ANNEXURE - R/5.
8. That on 17 November 2023, a meeting of all concerned officers including Additional Chief Secretary-Environment & Forest Department, Director General, Mines & Geology Department, ADGP (Law & Order), Member Secretary, HSPCB, Deputy Commissioners of these three districts and other officers concerned was held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Govt. of Haryana. After detailed discussion, further information was asked from the department concerned on various points including plantation done in aravali area, use of drones & CCTV camera, cases of illegal mining and action taken thereon etc. After the said meeting, on the basis of information provided, steps taken by respective authorities to prevent illegal mining are narrated in succeeding paragraphs.

Incidents of Illegal Mining and Action Taken:

9. That strict vigilance is being kept in Faridabad, Gurugram and Nuh districts. During the period of last four months, i.e. 01 October 2023 to 31 January 2024, no on-site mining was noticed in the Aravali range of Faridabad and Gurugram districts. 9 on-site illegal mining incidents were noticed in the Aravali area of district Nuh. The detail of instances of illegal mining in aravali area of District Nuh and action taken thereon is annexed in a tabulated chart as ANNEXURE-R/6.

Incidents of transportation of mineral extracted from Aravali Range, i.e., stone and subsequent processed mineral (Stone dust, Rodi) without e-

ravana/valid e-ravana were noticed in Faridabad, Gurugram and Nuh districts. The district wise abstract of instances of transportation of such material without e-ravana/valid e-ravana and action taken thereon by the respective district administration has been tabulated and annexed as ANNEXURE-R/7.

Drone Survey, Setting up of CCTV Cameras, Nakas, Community Awareness:

10. That as per reports received from all the departments concerned, mining instances were noticed in district Nuh. At first instance, drone mapping and use of CCTV cameras have been adopted in district Nuh by the Police Department. The steps taken by the Police Department in district Nuh to stop illegal mining and to catch vehicles involved in illegal mining are summarized as under:
 - (i) Drone Survey is being done once in a week and thereafter suspicious places are being physically verified by the police personals.
 - (ii) 13 number of Police Nakas have been setup intra-District (7) and at inter-state boundary (6). At some Nakas, Night Vision CCTV Footage Cameras are set up and images are being monitored at Control Room at SP Officer, Nuh.
 - (iii) Joint combing of Para-Military Force and the Haryana Police is being done to identify the mining prone areas.
 - (iv) A special Anti-Mining Staff has been constituted which do patrolling day and night in illegal mining prone areas. Trenches has been digged on the approach path towards Aravali range exposable to mining.
 - (v) To create awareness in the community for protection of Aravali, Nuh Police holds tours to hills & session for Students. Visit of students of 15 Sr. Secondary Schoc Is have been organized with teachers of Geology, Botany and officials of Forest Department to aware the students about bio-diversity of Aravali and create atmosphere at public at large to prevent illegal mining.
11. That the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority has initiated tendering through Gem portal of Govt. of India for the procurement of Drone Service for all these three districts

New Portal & Registration of GPS enabled vehicles only:

12. A new portal namely "Haryana Mines & geology Information System (HMGIS) portal" was launched on 13 September 2023 by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana. The real time location of the weighbridge and mineral laded vehicles are mapped in this portal, which in turn, helps in curbing the illegal mining and illegal transportation of the mineral. Besides, this weight of the mineral loaded vehicle is being captured by the system

automatic ally without any manual intervention, which would not allow any malpractice like tempering etc. The said portal has been implemented throughout the State w.e.f. 25 December 2023 by replacing the older e-Rawanna system. Registration by all units of Contractors/lessees, Mineral Dealer license holders, Stone Crusher license holders is in process. Now, no e-ravana is generated to vehicles without being GPS enabled. The development of mechanism of tracking of these vehicles is in process with the assistance of Transport Department.

Restoration Plan for Mining affected areas:

13. That in pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble NGT in OA No. 362/2022 titled as Aravalli Bachao Citizens Movement Vs UOI & Ors., the Chairman, HSPCB is monitoring the progress over preparation of Restoration Plan in coordination with the Forest Department, Mining Department and various experts in the field of Biodiversity, Wildlife, Forestry, Water Conservation along with the members of the original applicant "Aravalli Bachao Citizen Movement":

The Chairman, HSPCB held a meeting on 06 December 2023 with officers of the Forest Department, Mining Department and various experts in the field of Biodiversity, Wildlife, Forestry, Water Conservation along with the members of Aravalli Bachao Citizen Movement". In the meeting, the issue of Aravalli Rejuvenation was discussed thoroughly. It was decided during the meeting that the Aravalli Rejuvenation Plans of districts shall be upgraded on the templates given by the experts and shall be presented by respective DFOs on 16 December 2023 in a workshop to be organized at Gurugram. The Rejuvenation Action Plans prepared by the District Committees were to be examined by the State Committee comprising of following:-

- i. Dr. Babu Ram, Technical Expert. HSPCB (Head of the Committee-cum-Convenor)
- ii. Smt. Madhavi Gupta. State Mining Engineer.
- iii. Dr. Sumeet Dookia, Sr. Scientist, Wildlife Research, Indraprastha University,
- iv. Col. Sarvadamani Singh Oberoi, Mrs. Neelam Ahluwalia from Aravalli Bachao Citizen Movement
- v. One officer each dealing with Forests and Wild Life to be nominated by the concerned departments.

The proceedings of the meeting dated 06 December 2023 are enclosed as annexed as ANNEXURE E-R/8.

14. That the Chairman, HSPCB held another meeting/workshop at Gurugram on 16 December 2023. The Technical Expert, HSPCB explained about the directions of Hon'ble NGT and necessity of conservation of

biodiversity, water and environment which may be part of Aravalli Rejuvenation plan for sustainable management of natural resources of the Aravalli. The DFOs of these districts explained their draft rejuvenation plan. The experts in the field of Geology/Ecology gave their valuable comments/suggestions to make improvements/amendments/modifications in the draft rejuvenation action plans. After detailed discussion and deliberations, various decisions were taken. It was decided that the DFOs will submit draft rejuvenation plan duly approved by the Aravalli Rejuvenation Board/Deputy Commissioner to the State Level Committee (SLC) and the SLC may review the activities mentioned in the Aravalli rejuvenation action plan on quarterly basis. It was also decided that stand of the Government before various courts should be considered in preparation and finalization of the Aravalli Rejuvenation Plan. The plan shall also include assessment for environment damages in Aravalli districts due to Mining and other activities. The decision regarding declaring the area as environmentally sensitive can be taken only after approval of the plan by the State Government.

15. That the State Level Committee examined the draft District plans of Aravalli rejuvenation in its review meeting dated 30 December 2023 and after detailed deliberations on all the activities mentioned in the rejuvenation plan, SLC made district plan wise recommendations.

The State Level Committee has recommended that action plan for ecological restoration of Aravalli Districts in Haryana shall be implemented in 2 phases:

Under Phase-1:

Aravalli Ecological Restoration Plan shall be focused on the critical activities like conducting ground truthing of all the Aravalli Districts using drones and on ground visits by the officers of Government Departments to identify all the locations of illegal mining. The work has been started and the ATR shall be submitted after the data is received from the field offices and compiled at state level. The short term and long term protection measures to stop illegal mining- line enforcement mechanism, effective and strict vigilance in mining area using drones with advanced cameras to identify and monitor illegal mining area, setting of the checkpoint, setting up of forest check post, deployment of home guards across the Aravalli area and starting the base line survey for Districts to finalize the Aravalli District Level Rejuvenation Plan are to be implemented.

Under phase-2:

The implementation of the Ecological Restoration Plan based on the activities mentioned in the District

Rejuvenation Plans and recommendations made by the experts.

16. That it is noteworthy that this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 11 December 2023 passed in OA No.362/2022 constituted a Committee, for looking the aspects of enforcement and monitoring of compliance with environmental norms guidelines and directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of the officers	Chairman/Member
1	Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest and wildlife Department, Haryana	Chairman
2	Divisional Commissioner, Gurugram Division, Gurugram	Member
3	Divisional Commissioner, Faridabad Division, Faridabad	Member
4	Inspector General of Police, law and Order, Haryana	Member
5	Director, Mining and Geology Department, Haryana	Member
6	Member Secretary, HSPCB	Member Secretary
7	Chief Conservator of Forest (South) Haryana Chairman	Member

It has been directed that the Committee shall meet periodically with such intervals as may be considered appropriate with atleast one meeting every quarter and look into all relevant aspects of enforcement and monitoring to prevent illegal mining and transportation, reclamation/rejuvenation of illegally mined areas and imposition and realization of environmental compensation. The Member Secretary, HSPCB being the Member Secretary of the Committee shall be the Nodal Officer for coordination and compliance.

In compliance of said direction, first meeting of the Committee was held on 04 January 2024 under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Forest & Wildlife Department, Haryana followed by the meeting dated 18 January 2024 under the Chairmanship of Chairman, HSPCB. In the meeting following decisions were taken:

- (i) Compilation of all directions/orders issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, National Green Tribunal and High Court of Punjab & Haryana.
- (ii) Adoption of enforcement & monitoring mechanism to prevent illegal mining and transportation

- (iii) Preparation of Final District Rejuvenation Plans and taking further action on the activities, as mentioned in these plans.
- (iv) Finalization of SoP for assessment, imposition and realization of Environment Damage Compensation in cases of illegal mining

17. That the draft SoP for assessment, imposition and realization of Environment Damage Compensation in cases of illegal mining has been prepared and under consideration of the Competent Authority. Next meeting to review the progress shall be held under the Chairmanship of the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Department, Haryana, Chandigarh on 16.02.2024.

18. That the Forest Department carries out plantation programmes in various plans schemes like Rejuvenation of Degraded Forest, Desert Control and Agro-forestry in the Aravalli Hills Range. During 2023-24, Faridabad Forest Division has planted 15900 plants, Gurugram Division has planted 26650 plants in the District and Nuh Forest Division has planted 59500 plants in District Nuh under the aforesaid schemes in the Aravali Hills with native species."

13. It is further stated that in order to finalize comprehensive rejuvenation action plan for reclamation/rehabilitation of the land illegally mined in Aravalli region, 3 months further time be granted.

14. We find that substantial steps have been taken but Rejuvenation Action Plan also is of equal importance and matter cannot be delayed.

15. Considering the facts and circumstances of the matter, we dispose of this Application by directing respondents to implement and execute the steps taken as mentioned from para 4 to 18 of the report dated 08.02.2024 and also to finalize "Comprehensive Rejuvenation Action Plan" for reclamation/rehabilitation of illegally mined land in Aravalli region in State of Haryana within three months and execute the said Rejuvenation action plan within next six months and submit a comprehensive compliance report with the Registrar General of this Tribunal by 20.11.2024 by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

16. Registrar General, if find necessary, shall place matter before the Tribunal for further orders.

17. With the above directions, Original Application stands disposed of.

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

February 09, 2024
Original Application No. 295/2021
SN