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**KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

Pattom P.O., Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004

പട്ടം പി.ഒ, തിരുവനന്തപുരം 695 004



KSPCB/258/2025-SEE-1

Date: 11-05-2026

From

The Member Secretary

To

1. The Chief Environmental Engineer,  
Regional Office,  
Thiruvananthapuram/Ernakulam/Kozhikode.
2. The Senior Environmental Engineer,  
District Office, Kannur/Wayanad.
3. The Environmental Engineer, District Office,  
Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta,  
Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam-1,  
Ernakulam-2, Environmental Surveillance Centre Eloor,  
Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kasargod.

Sub: Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 13.02.2026 in W.P.(C) No. 481/2025 - Reg.

Ref: 1. Letter No. CM-11/26/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO dated 23.02.2026 from CPCB (copy enclosed)  
2. This Office email dated 30.04.2026

Sir/Madam,

With reference to the letter cited (1), CPCB has circulated the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment dated 13.02.2026 in W.P.(C) No. 481/2025 & connected matters. As per the judgement, the reclassification of standalone

cement grinding units without Captive Power Plant (CPP) from the “Red” category to the “Orange” category in the revised industrial sector categorisation issued by the CPCB in January, 2025 has been quashed. Further, Notifications G.S.R. 84(E) dated 29.01.2025 and G.S.R. 85(E) dated 30.01.2025 issued by MoEF&CC, which relaxed the applicable siting and regulatory safeguards for such units based on the aforesaid reclassification, have also been quashed. In this regard, it is directed that any consent, approval or permission granted solely on the basis of the aforesaid reclassification or the relaxed siting and regulatory safeguards shall not survive and shall stand withdrawn, and that the concerned authorities shall take all consequential actions in accordance with the law. Additionally, if any such units which were granted consent to operate and are operating, in any category other than Red, shall be notified that their category is changed to Red and are to be considered so from their next consent application.

In view of the above, it is hereby directed to identify such units, if any, under respective jurisdiction and to take necessary action as per the above paragraphs, at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Digitally signed by

RATISH MENON

Date: 11-05-2026

10:20:57

**MEMBER SECRETARY**

Encl. as above



**Hon'ble Supreme Court Matter**

CM-11/26/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO

23.02.2026

To,

The Member Secretary,  
SPCB/PCC  
(As per the list)

**Subject: Regarding Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 13.02.2026 in W.P. (C) No. 481 of 2025.**

Sir/Madam,

This has reference to the judgment dated 13.02.2026, pronounced by Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of W.P. (C) No. 481 of 2025 and connected matters, wherein the court has issued directions with respect to the classification of Stand-alone Cement Grinding Units without Captive Power Plant (CPP).

In this regard, attention is invited to Para no. 66 and 67 at page no. 62 of the aforesaid judgement (Copy attached) for necessary implementation.

Yours faithfully,

**(Bharat Kumar Sharma)**  
Member Secretary

**Encl.:** As Above.

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**'परिवेश भवन' पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली - 110032.**  
**Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.**

दूरभाष /Tel : 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट/Website: www.cpcb.nic.in



**REPORTABLE**

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL APPELLATE/ORIGINAL JURISDICTION**

**CIVIL APPEAL NO..... OF 2026  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP(C) NO.8316 OF 2024)**

**HARBINDER SINGH SEKHON  
& ORS. ...APPELLANT(S)**

**VERSUS**

**THE STATE OF PUNJAB  
& ORS. ...RESPONDENT(S)**

**WITH**

**CIVIL APPEAL NO..... OF 2026  
(ARISING OUT OF SLP(C) No. 8495 OF 2024)**

**AND**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 481 OF 2025**

**AND**

**WRIT PETITION (C) No. 551 OF 2025**

**J U D G M E N T**

**VIKRAM NATH, J.**

1. At the outset, it may be noted that the present judgment is structured in two parts. The first part addresses the civil appeals arising out of the Special Leave Petitions and examines the legality of the

Signature Not Verified  
 Digitally signed by  
 NEETU KHANUURIA  
 Date: 2026.02.16  
 17:20:33 IST  
 Reason:

that infringes the constitutional guarantees under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

66. Accordingly, Writ Petition (Civil) No. 481 of 2025 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 551 of 2025 are allowed to the following extent:

I. The revised industrial sector categorisation issued by the CPCB in January, 2025 is quashed insofar as it reclassifies the activity described as a “stand-alone grinding unit without CPP” from the “Red” category to the “Orange” category.

II. Notifications GSR 84E dated 29.01.2025 and GSR 85E dated 30.01.2025 issued by the MoEF&CC are quashed insofar as they relax the applicable siting and regulatory safeguards for such units on the basis of the aforesaid reclassification.

67. Consequently, any consent, approval or permission that has been granted solely on the basis of the aforesaid reclassification of “stand-alone grinding unit without CPP” as an “Orange” category activity or on the basis of the relaxed siting and regulatory safeguards introduced by Notifications GSR 84E dated 29.01.2025 and GSR 85E dated 30.01.2025

shall not survive and shall stand withdrawn, and the concerned authorities shall take all consequential steps in accordance with law.

68. We clarify that this judgment shall not preclude the CPCB or the MoEF & CC from undertaking a fresh exercise of classification or regulatory review in accordance with law, provided that any such exercise is supported by a reasoned, transparent, and scientifically substantiated assessment, and is consistent with the precautionary principle and the constitutional mandate to protect life, health, and the environment.
69. With the above directions, Writ Petition (Civil) No. 481 of 2025 and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 551 of 2025 stand disposed of.
70. Pending applications, if any, shall also stand disposed of.

.....**J.**  
**[VIKRAM NATH]**

.....**J.**  
**[SANDEEP MEHTA]**

**NEW DELHI;**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2026**