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Forest department responsible for poor air quality: Delhi High Court

The Bombay High Court had also on Tuesday taken suo motu cognisance of air pollution in the financial capital of the court and it noted on Wednesday that authorities have not taken steps to create health advisories or awareness among citizens about the deleterious levels of AQI that is currently prevailing in the city.

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The overall air quality index (AQI) of Delhi on Sunday morning was noted as 266. (Image: PTI)

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New Delhi/Mumbai: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday emphasised that the residents of the national capital have the fundamental right to clean air to breathe and greenery goes a long way in doing that and raised its concern on poor air quality in the national capital and blamed

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Justice Gajendra Singh said this while hearing pleas regarding the creation of an alternative forest in the national capital and filling up vacancies in the department.

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Children were suffering from asthma due to breathing polluted air: Delhi High Court

The High Court said that encroachment in the ridge area, which is considered the lungs of the national capital, was taking place “right under the nose” of government officials, news agency PTI reported.

While asking the principal secretary of the forest department to fill the vacancies in the department on a “war footing”, Justice Singh remarked, during the hearing of the case, that children were suffering from asthma due to breathing polluted air in the city.

Obligation of forest department to ensure AQI comes down: Delhi High Court

“You are responsible for quality of air we breathe. It is your obligation to ensure AQI comes down,” Justice Singh said, adding that “Every kid is having breathing problem. (In) December-January, people have to travel out when it is the best time to be here,”

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near Haryana border and Yamuna floodplains were being ecologically rejuvenated and restored by various authorities.

During the last hearing into the matter, the High Court had, while demanding earmarking of 750 hectares of land for developing an alternative forest, had said that the city cannot just be concrete all over and it was needed for the planned development in the interest of future generations.

Authorities have not take steps to health awareness on deteriorating AQI levels: Bombay High Court

The Bombay High Court had also on Tuesday taken suo motu cognisance of air pollution in the financial capital of the court and it noted on Wednesday that authorities have not taken steps to create health advisories or awareness among citizens about the deleterious levels of AQI that is currently prevailing in the city. It had also issued notices to the Maharashtra government, the Union government, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and sought their response on measures taken by them to tackle the poor air quality problem.

The Delhi High Court would hear the matter further on November 8, while the Bombay High Court would hear the matter next on November 6.

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