

National Green Tribunal:

The National Green Tribunal was established in 2010. It is a forum for timely disposal of cases pertaining to environmental issues such as the protection of forests their conservation as well as seeking compensation for damages caused to public and their property due to violations of environmental laws. NGT was established under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 passed by Central Government In the parliament. India is the third country after Australia and New Zealand to have such a system in which polluter pays principle is applied. Delhi Pollution Control Committee works under this act of NGT. The main bench of NGT is in New Delhi. The chairperson of NGT is the retired judge of the Supreme Court. It also has an expert member who is specialized in the field of environment. The National Environment Tribunal Act 1995 and The National Environment Appellate Authority Act 1997 have been further enforced after NGT Act 2010. The tribunal is required to dispose off environmental related issues within 6 months of filing of the complaint. It is like a civil court to solve any harm done by the polluter to the environment or violator of environmental laws. One drawback of the Tribunal is that any decision given can be challenged in High Courts under Article 226. The wildlife protection act 1972 and the Scheduled tribes and other traditional forests dwellers act 2006 are out of its jurisdiction and therefore hampers the functioning of NGT as forest and wildlife are directly connected to environment. Some of the important orders it has given are ban of all diesel vehicles on Delhi roads which are more than 10 years old to check pollution and ban on polythene bags which are less than 50 micron thickness in Delhi.

-Dr.Vibha Narang