

## **Ministry of Law and Justice**

### **Ordinance on Air Quality Management**

**October 30, 2020**

Relevant to all Mahindra Businesses

#### **Background**

- The already existing Environment Pollution (prevention & control) Authority (EPCA), formed in 1998, has been dissolved.
- The EPCA was formed after a Supreme Court order two decades back but its powers and functions were limited, especially regarding coordination with states.

#### **The New Structure**

- Against seven members of the EPCA, the new commission will have 18 members, including a chairperson and secretary as well as eight associate members from different ministries.
- It will have “exclusive jurisdiction” in the NCR on matters relating to air quality management. It has been provided discretionary authority to search, seize any polluting site and issue a warrant.
- Apart from seven central ministries, the commission will have also representation from five states, Central Pollution Control Board, Indian Space Research Organisation, NITI Ayog, pollution experts and NGOs.
- It will co-ordinate with the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to plan, execute and monitor programmes for “prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.”

#### **The powers and punishment**

- The commission will also formulate parameters for air quality, emissions and discharge of environmental pollutants, including stubble burning and monitor its adherence.
- It will also have powers to inspect sites and investigate as well as carry out researches relating to air pollution.

- The commission can slap a penalty of Rs 1 crore and/or five-year jail term to those flouting air pollution norms.

## References

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3. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-issues-ordinance-to-form-new-commission-to-replace-sc-mandated-epca/story-nWagkwXA33KzD42FbWsTFN.html>