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Commentary

India's Steps Towards Carbon Dioxide Monitoring in Public Assembly Spaces for Ventilation Measurement for Airborne Infection Control and Other Factors

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This commentary describes the work done by the Indian National Green Tribunal by instructing the Central Pollution Control Board to formulate guidelines and issue directions for important matters related to Indoor Air Quality and Airborne Infection Control. What started as a Public Interest Litigation in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court led to an application in the National Green Tribunal for three matters. The first is the monitoring of Carbon Dioxide in enclosed air-conditioned spaces of a public assembly nature, as Carbon Dioxide is a surrogate for ventilation in a space. The second is including inclusions in Split Air Conditioners, as they simply recirculate the indoor air without any fresh air intake, which increases the probability of airborne infection spread apart from other issues. The last is having an appropriate window design in building byelaws to promote the openability of windows with a wire mesh so that fresh air intake is possible for airborne infection control.

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In India, the Judiciary is the guardian of the Citizen's right to Life, which includes the Right to a Healthy Environment under Article 21 of the Constitution of India^{[1][2][3]}. The first author was the sole petitioner in the Delhi High Court for the implementation of dilution ventilation in public assembly buildings, which was directed by the Hon'ble Court to be treated as a representation to government authorities, including the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Housing, the standard-making body, and the pollution control boards, among others^[3]. One of the respondents, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, stated that the Indoor Air is not within the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and hence not within the committee's mandate^[4]. To clear the position of the law, on the basis of an application by the first author, the National Green Tribunal adjudicated in this matter and ruled that Indoor Air is within the purview of the Air Act, 1981^[5]. In another application before the

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Declarations

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