

Centre constitutes committee to assess impact of industrial pollution on Taj Mahal

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AGRA: The union environment and forest ministry has constituted a five-member high-level committee comprising its advisor, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) director and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) director general among others to conduct a fresh study to find out the impact of industrial pollution on Taj Mahal.

Earlier, in September this year, the ministry had decided to allow only non-polluting 'white category' new industrial units in Agra, a move vehemently opposed by Agra businessmen.

The latest direction, passed on December 8, has come in the wake of several representations sent to the ministry by various organisations of Agra.

According to the new direction, the committee will assess level of industrial pollution as well as ambient air quality and suggest appropriate course of action

based on the scientific evidence. It will also assess implementation of decisions taken on September 8 in the ministry while reviewing the status of environmental issues in the Taj Trapezium zone.

Besides, the committee will hear all the stakeholders and submit a report by December 14, 2016 to the ministry.

The ministry has appointed its advisor Manoranjan Hota as the chairman of the committee. Other members are secretaries of Central Pollution Control Board and UP Pollution Control Board, besides NEERI director and ASI chief or his representative.