

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH AT KOLKATA
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 235/2024/EZ

In the mater of :

Ankur Sharma

..... Applicant

Versus

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

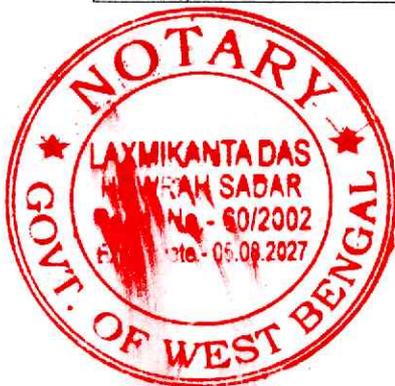
..... Respondents

SL. NO. W May/218/25

BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC
HOWRAH

**AFFIDAVIT-IN-REJOINDER ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT
TO AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 05.**

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Ankur Sharma
(Applicant in person)
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**AFFIDAVIT-IN-REJOINDER ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT
TO AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 05.**

I, Ankur Sharma, the Applicant aged about 28 years by occupation Advocate residing at 13/3, Dr. P. K. Banerjee Road, Howrah - 711101 do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under :

1. I am the Applicant in the abovementioned Original Application. I have read the Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 05 i.e. District Magistrate, Howrah, and I am making the present Affidavit in Rejoinder thereto.
2. I deny the contents and averments made in the Affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No. 05 that are contrary to and/or inconsistent with anything stated in the abovementioned Original Application and the present Affidavit in Rejoinder.

3. As regards the committee report, I say the following :

1. That issues related to air pollution at and around the specific locales were largely fixed correctively by the Respondent authorities immediately before the days of



inspection on 08.02.2025, 10.02.2025 and 14.02.2025. However, the reports of stack emission have not been annexed with the report of the committee forming part of the affidavit. Only two weeks after the inspection got over the Applicant noticed that the chimney of Shibpur Burning Ghat started emitting thick black smoke as usual. I surprised how usual emission could be arrested temporarily, say for one or two weeks only, by application of any advanced technology or by not putting the device in operation as required only to reduce electricity bill.

A photograph of the said chimney while so emitting usual thick black smoke is annexed herewith and marked by the letter and figure 'A-1'

ii. That on the day of inspection the ghats were thoroughly cleaned and bleaching powder was sprinkled in vicinity of all burning ghats which is quite unusual but planned for the purpose of inspection. Usually, wastes lie scattered in and around the burning ghats openly posing health risks.

Some photographs of waste lying in and around burning ghats captured on ~~5th~~, 6th and 7th May, 2025 are annexed herewith and marked by the letter and figure 'A-2'.

iii. That the report of the committee shows that Consent to Operate for all crematoriums/burning ghats of Howrah have expired long ago in the year 2016 and have not been renewed since then.

iv. That none of the crematoriums/burning ghats of Howrah have any waste management mechanism. The wastes are stored openly in uncovered condition and mixed with municipal wastes.

v. That only Banstala Burning Ghat in Howrah has APCD for its wooden pyre. None of the other ghats of Howrah have any APCD for wooden pyres.



vi. That many of the electric furnaces of both Howrah and Kolkata were not in operation during inspection. Hence, efficiency of the respective APCDs could not be ascertained.

vii. The committee did not mention anything about treatment of waste water generated by APCDs in any of the burning ghats.

4. Most of the issues have been addressed by the Respondent authorities. However, the following issues still persist crematorium/ghat wise :

i. Shibpur Burning Ghat, Howrah – Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) for wood pyre/s are not present, proper solid and liquid waste management is not being done, Consent to Operate is not valid.

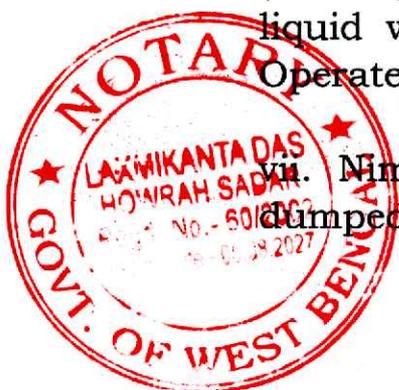
ii. Salkia Buring Ghat, Howrah – Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) for wood pyre/s are not present, proper solid and liquid waste management is not being done, Consent to Operate is not valid.

iii. Banstala Burning Ghat, Howrah – Proper solid and liquid waste management is not being done, Consent to Operate is not valid.

iv. Pathak Ghat, Howrah – Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) for wood pyre/s are not present, proper solid and liquid waste management is not being done, Consent to Operate is not valid.

v. Mora Pora Ghat, Howrah – Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs) for wood pyre/s are not present, proper solid and liquid waste management is not being done, Consent to Operate is not valid.

vi. Nimtola Burning Ghat, Kolkata – Wastes are being dumped on the river bank. Air Pollution Control Devices



(APCDs) of the wooden pyres are not working efficiently. Waste water flows into municipal drains.

viii. Kashimitra Burning Ghat – Installation of new Air Pollution Control Device (APCD) is pending. APCD for wood pyre is not present, however, only few cremations are carried on wood pyres at Kashimitra Burning Ghat.

ix. Garia Adi Mahasamsan - Air Pollution Control Device (APCD) for wood pyre is not present, however, only few cremations are carried on wood pyres at Kashimitra Burning Ghat.

This, apart, all crematoriums may be directed to install Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) connected with the web server of WBPCB for real time public viewing of stack emissions, and ensure availability of cow dung logs as an alternate to wood logs.

In view of what is stated herein above, I humbly pray before this Hon'ble Tribunal to pass necessary orders in the interest of justice.

Solemnly affirmed at Howrah

On this 8th day of May, 2025

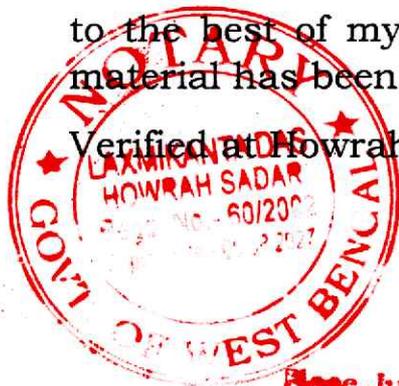
Ankur Sharma

Applicant

VERIFICATION

I, Ankur Sharma, the abovenamed Applicant do hereby verify that the contents of the above Affidavit in Rejoinder are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Howrah on this 8th day of May, 2025.



Place Judges' Court
Howrah - 711101
W.B. India

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED & DECLARED
BEFORE ME BY THE DEPONENT, ON
IDENTIFICATION OF ADVOCATE

Laxmikanta Das
08.05.25

LAXMIKANTA DAS
NOTARY HOWRAH
Govt. of West Bengal
08 MAY 2025

Ankur Sharma

Applicant

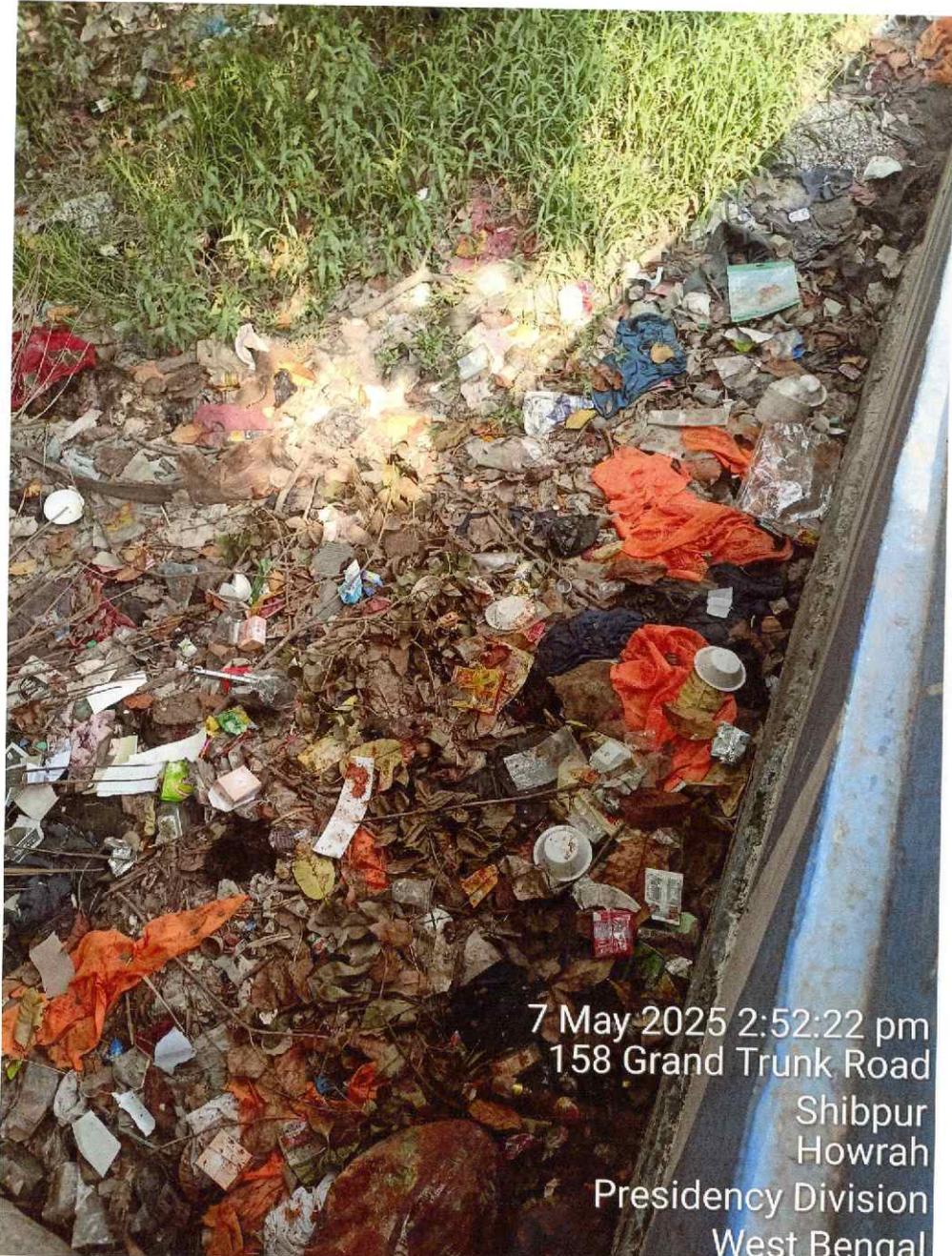
Identified by
Ayushi Katakamnia

F/498/371/2021



24 Feb 2025 at 07:43 PM



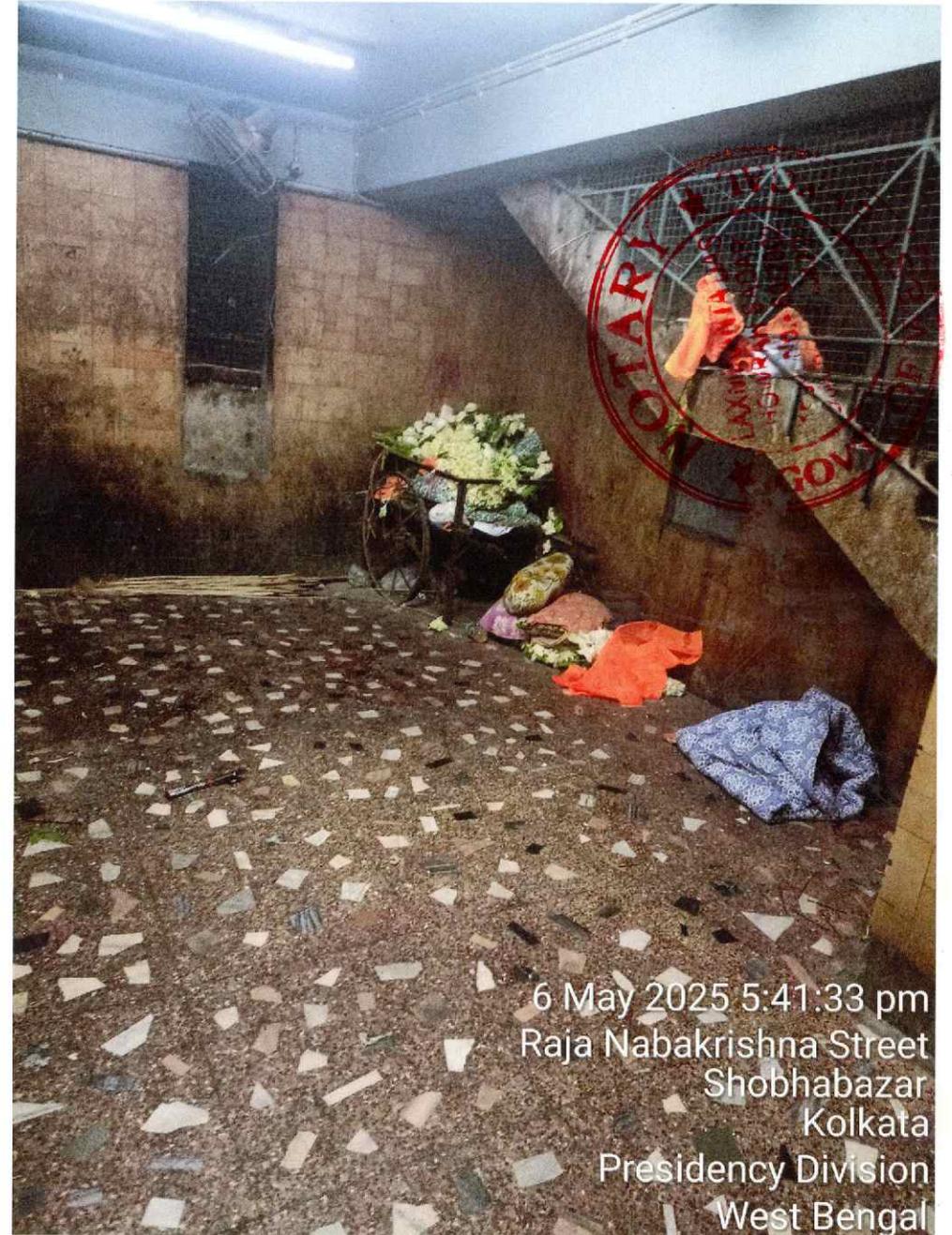


7 May 2025 2:52:22 pm
 158 Grand Trunk Road
 Shibpur
 Howrah
 Presidency Division
 West Bengal



7 May 2025 12:55:35 pm
 Bally
 Howrah
 Presidency Division
 West Bengal

NOTARY
 LAXMIKANTA DAS
 HOWRAH SADAR
 Regd. No. - 601/2002
 Expiry Date - 6-11-2027
GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL





6 May 2025 5:19:45 pm
 Baranagar
 Kolkata
 Presidency Division
 West Bengal



6 May 2025 4:10:57 pm
 112A Tollygunge Road
 Tollygunge
 Kolkata
 Presidency Division
 West Bengal