

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**Original Application No 33 of 2023 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Nukatati Raja Shekar and Marri Pushaparaaj

..... Applicant

Versus

Union of India and 6 others

.....Respondent(s)

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Signed and verified on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023 at Chennai.

  
Counsel for CPCB





Deponent

**H.D. VARALAXMI**, M.Tech  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(MoEF & CC, Govt. of India)  
Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
2nd Floor, 77-A, South Avenue Road,  
Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai - 600 056

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL (SOUTHERN ZONE)  
CHENNAI**

**Original Application No 33 of 2023 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Nukatati Raja Shekar and Marri Pushaparaj

Applicant(s)

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**AFFIDAVIT FILED ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 3, CENTRAL POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

I, H. D. Varalaxmi, D/o Shri H.S. Devaiah, Hindu, aged about 53 years and having office at the Regional Directorate – Chennai, Central Pollution Control Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 77-A, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai – 600058, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as follows: -

1. I am presently working as the Regional Director, Regional Directorate (South), Central Pollution Control Board, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent herein. I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and have been authorized to file the present affidavit on behalf of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent.
2. It is submitted that in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT order dated April 12, 2023, the CPCB team inspected of M/s Andhra Paper Mills Limited, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh during May 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The interim report of the team is as follow:



*H.D. Varalaxmi*

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**INTERIM REPORT OF THE CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD (CPCB)**

**i. Background**

The grievance in the application is regarding the discharge of effluent into Turuplanka island in River Godavari by the Pulp and Paper industry operated by the 7<sup>th</sup> respondent M/s Andhra Paper Mills Limited at Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. It is alleged that the industry is pumping its effluent through pipelines to the middle of River Godavari and storing effluent in large number of tanks at Turuplanka island illegally violating the conditions imposed by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board. It is also alleged that the industry is causing severe odour and air pollution.

**ii. Orders of the Hon'ble Tribunal**

The Hon'ble NGT (SZ) in its order dated April 12, 2023 directed as below and the copy of the NGT order is enclosed as Annexure 1:

*“The learned counsel appearing for the applicant requested that since the industry is highly polluting, the Central Pollution Control Board can inspect and file a report in this regard. Therefore, we direct the CPCB to inspect the premises and file a detailed report in relevance to the allegations made by the applicant”.*

**iii. Inspection by CPCB, Regional Directorate Chennai:**

In compliance to the Hon'ble NGT order dated April 12, 2023, CPCB Regional Director – Chennai constituted a team comprising of following officials for inspection of M/s Andhra Paper Mills Limited, Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh:

1. Smt Sowmya D, Scientist D, CPCB, Chennai
2. Sh. K Karunakaran, Senior Technical Supervisor, CPCB, Chennai



*H.D. Varalaxmi*  
**H.D. VARALAXMI, M.Tech**  
 Regional Director  
 CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
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 Regional Directorate (Chennai)  
 2nd Floor, 77-A, South Avenue Road,  
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3. Ms. Sukrutha S, Junior Research Fellow, CPCB, Chennai
4. Monitoring team from Regional Directorate, Bengaluru

Since CPCB Regional Directorate, Chennai is a newly established office operating at Chennai from November 2020, the laboratory is yet to be established. The Regional Director, Chennai requested the CPCB Regional Director, Bengaluru to depute a team for monitoring and analyses the water, wastewater and air samples at Regional Directorate, Bengaluru. Accordingly, Regional Director, Bengaluru deputed Sh Sudhagar C, Senior Scientific Assistant for monitoring and samples are analysed at Regional Directorate, Bengaluru.

The team inspected of M/s Andhra Paper Mills Limited, Rajamahendravaram during May 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and following are the observations made during inspection of the industry:

1. M/s Andhra Paper Mills Limited is an integrated wood-based Pulp and paper manufacturing industry commissioned in the year 1964 in the name of M/s Andhra Pradesh Paper Mills Limited at Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. In 2011, the company was acquired by the United States based International Paper Machine and in 2013 it was renamed as International Paper APPM Ltd. In 2019, it was acquired by M/s West Coast Paper Mills Ltd and renamed as M/s Andhra Paper Mills Limited in January 2020. At present, the industry is operating as a subsidiary of M/s West Coast Paper Mills Ltd.
2. The industry is operating with a valid Environmental Clearance (EC) issued by the MOEF&CC in 06/03/2014 and extended the validity up to 05/03/2025 vide order dated 28/04/2022. The Consent for Operation (CFO) under the Water and Air Acts and Authorization under Hazardous Waste Management Rules issued by Andhra Pradesh pollution Control Board is valid up to 30/06/2023.



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3. The installed capacity, consented capacity and present production capacity of the industry are as follow:

Sl	Product	Installed Capacity and Consented Capacity (MTA)	Present production capacity (MTA) FY 2022-23
1	Pulp	2,00,000	1,88,751
2	Paper	2,07,550	1,78,081
3	Captive Power	46	26
4	A4 Sheet	97455	63530

During the inspection the industry was operating at 100% of the installed capacity and production during inspection are as follow:

Date	Pulp (TPD)	Paper (TPD)
15/05/2023	501	474
16/05/2023	552	509
17/05/2023	552	498

4. As per the flow meter readings and records maintained by the industry, approximately 22561 KLD of water from River Godavari is utilized in the process section and 18543 KLD of effluent is generated. Effluent generated is treated in the Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) of capacity 45000 KLD consisting of primary clarifiers, aeration tanks, secondary clarifiers and tertiary clarifiers. 12000 KLD of effluent from paper machine effluent after clarification and evaporator condensate are reused in the industry in pulp mill dilution, paper machine showers, floor washing, chemical dilution, ETP sludge belt showers through dedicated network of pipelines. 395 M<sup>3</sup>/day of treated effluent is utilized within the industry premises for gardening. Remaining treated effluent is discharged to lagoons at Turuplanka island in River Godavari through pipeline by pumping as per the disposal method mentioned in the Consent for Operation issued by APPCB on 02/04/2018 valid up to 30/06/2023.
5. During the inspection the wastewater samples were collected at each component of the



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ETP, inlet and outlet of the ETP. The team visited Turuplanka island in River Godavari and sample of wastewater discharged to lagoons at Turuplanka island were collected. The samples of river water were collected from River Godavari at upstream and downstream of location of lagoons at Turuplanka island. Source monitoring was carried out for monitoring emissions at four stacks attached to Rotary Lime Kiln 1 and 2, Recovery boiler and coal fired boiler. The samples are handed over to CPCB, Regional Directorate, Bengaluru for analysis.

6. The industry has installed online continuous emission and effluent monitoring system (OCEMS) at outlet of the ETP for treated effluent and at four stacks for emissions.

In view of above, this Answering Respondent humbly prays that:

1. In compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated April 12<sup>th</sup> 2023, the CPCB team inspected the Industry during May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
2. The samples were collected from each component of the ETP, inlet of lagoon and from upstream & downstream of the Turuplanka island in River Godavari. The stack monitoring was carried at four stacks.
3. The samples are handed over to laboratory at CPCB, Regional Directorate, Bengaluru for analysis which requires two week time for the submission of results. Subsequently another two weeks is required for compilation and report preparation.
4. In view of above, it is humbly prays to Hon'ble NGT to grant four-week time for the submission of final report.



H.D. Varalaxmi

**Deponent**

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**VERIFICATION**

It is verified that the content of this reply statement which is based on official record and information available in the office are true and correct. Nothing has been concealed therein.

Signed and verified on this nineteenth day of May, 2023 at Chennai.

  
**Counsel for CPCB**





**Deponent**

**H.D. VARALAXMI**, M.Tech  
Regional Director  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(MoEF & CC, Govt of India)  
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**Annexure-1****Item No.2:-****BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI***(Through Video Conference)***Original Application No.33 of 2023(SZ)****IN THE MATTER OF:**

Nukatati Raja Sekhar and Anr.

...Applicant(s)

*Versus*

Union of India and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

**Date of hearing: 12.04.2023.****CORAM:****HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER****HON'BLE Dr. SATYAGOPAL KORLAPATI, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): Mr. Sravan Kumar.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Madhuri Donti Reddy for R2, R4 to R6.

**ORDER**

1. Since it is alleged that the 7<sup>th</sup> respondent is polluting the area by releasing the contaminated chemical water into the Godavari River and the unit continues to violate the EC and Consent conditions, the applicant has sought for closure of the paper mill.

2. The learned counsel appearing for the applicant requested that since the industry is highly polluting, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) can inspect and file a report in this regard. Therefore, we direct the CPCB to inspect the premises and file a detailed report in relevance to the allegations made by the applicant.
3. It is also pointed out that there is a commitment given by the 7<sup>th</sup> respondent that they would comply with all the conditions in the letter dated 04.10.2022 addressed to the second applicant. Let the 7<sup>th</sup> respondent file a report to that effect whether they honoured the commitment given in writing on 04.10.2022.
4. Let notice be issued to all the respondents through the Tribunal as well as privately.
5. The learned counsel Mrs. Madhuri Donti Reddy accepts notice on behalf of Respondents Nos.2 & 4 to 6.
6. Post the matter on 22.05.2023.

**Sd/-**  
**Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM**

**Sd/-**  
**Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati, EM**

**O.A. No.33/2023(SZ)**  
**12<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Mn.**

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
(SOUTHERN ZONE) CHENNAI**

**Original Application No. 33 of 2023 (SZ)**

Nukatati Raja Shekar and Marri  
Pushaparaj

.....Applicant

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.....Respondent(s)

**STATEMENT FILED ON  
BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL  
BOARD, RESPONDENT NO. 3**

M/s.R. Thirunavukarasu

Counsel for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent .