

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

IN

O.A. NO. 623 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

O.A. No. 623 /2025 (PB) News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.02.2026.

INDEX

SI. No.	Description of the Document	Page No.
1.	Affidavit on the Hon'ble NGT, New Delhi order dt. 23.02.2026 in O.A. No. 623 of 2023 (PB) News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025	1-8

05.
Dated: .05.2026

Filed By:


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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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O.A. No. 623 /2025 (PB) News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.02.2026.

AFFIDAVIT FILED BY THE MEMBER SECRETARY, ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD AS PER THE HON'BLE NGT, NEW DELHI ORDER DT.23.02.2026 IN O.A. NO. 623 OF 2025(PB)

I, S. Sri Sarvanan, Son of Shri A. Shanmugam, aged about 52 years, presently working at Vijayawada, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. I am holding the office of the Member Secretary of Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board. The present affidavit is filed in pursuance to the order dated 23.02.2026 of this Hon'ble Tribunal and the contents of the present affidavit are based on the records as maintained by the A.P.Pollution Control board.
2. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench (PB), New Delhi registered an Original Application (OA) No.623 of 2025 (PB) in Suo-Motu on the basis of the News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025.
3. The Hon'ble Tribunal heard the matter on 03.12.2025,impleaded all State Pollution Control Boards as respondents to ensure the protection of statutory funds across the country and directed the State Pollution Control Boards




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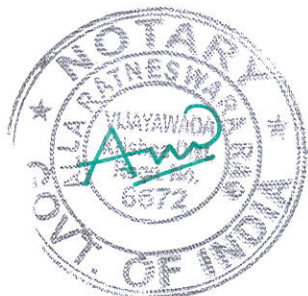
(SPCBs) to file an affidavit before the tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. The Hon'ble Tribunal on 23.02.2026 directed the remaining SPCBs to file an affidavit, who had not filed the affidavit.

4. That on the basis of aforesaid news item and order dated 03.12.2025 passed by Hon'ble NGT, it is humbly submitted that the matter mainly involves diversion of the funds of the State Boards. Sections 37 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 33 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 mandated to maintain SPCBs own independent funds, consisting of state government contributions, grants, donations, and fees, which are used to cover all operational expenses.
5. That the answering respondent humbly submits that the Primary sources of funds of APPCB are fee collection for processing of
 - a. Consent to Establish;
 - b. Consent to Operate fees based on the investment and capacity of industries;
 - c. Authorization fees for biomedical waste management;
 - d. Monitoring and analysis charges levied for inspection and compliance verification.
6. The above revenues constitute the primary and sole recurring income of the APPCB and are utilized for regulatory and environmental protection functions, including inspections, laboratory analysis, purchase of chemicals, environmental monitoring and awareness programmes.
7. The financial administration, including accounting, audit and approvals, is carried out in accordance with the General Financial Rules applicable to the State of Andhra Pradesh.



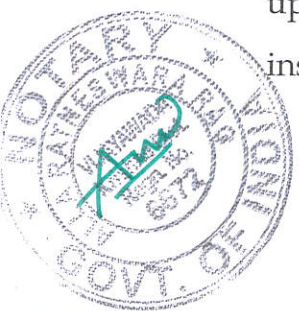

MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
VIJAYAWADA-520 007.

8. The administrative and establishment expenses are also met from the aforementioned funds, which includes,
 - a. Staff salaries and establishment costs.
 - b. Office infrastructure, Rent charges, and routine operations of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations.
 - c. Environmental awareness and training programmes.
9. The APPCB also receives Central grants and projectbased funds, a) Pollution Abatement Funds from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), b) Financial support for national programmes such as the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAAQM) and the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP)&c) National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
10. The APPCB also receive funds from other sources through,
 - a. Environmental compensation imposed as per the directives of the Hon'ble NGT in various cases and also from the industries reviewed on non-compliances of the consent conditions / directions, &
 - b. Forfeiture of bank Guarantee from the industries, failed to comply with the commitment to rectify the non-compliances/installation of requisite pollution control equipments within prescribed timelines.
11. The EC funds are being utilized by APPCB in accordance to directives of the Hon'ble NGT for specific purposes earmarked and also to undertake scientific studies to assess the environmental pollution in consultation with reputed institutions like NEERI, IITMadras,NIO Visakhapatnam, SVIMS Tirupati, and many of the reputed institutes. The respondent Board also utilized EC funds for installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems at outlet of some of the Municipal STPs and for Real Time Water Quality Monitoring across 5 major Rivers in the State.In addition to the above, the respondent Board also funded the Swacha Andhra Corporation for procurement of solid waste compactors, to improve the solid waste management thereby benefiting the environment.




MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
VIJAYAWADA-520 007.

12. The funds allocated to the APPCB are utilized for carrying out its statutory functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in the following manner.
13. The Primary portion of the funds are being utilized for the establishment and administrative expenses including salaries of technical and non-technical staff, office operations, utilities, maintenance of Zonal and Regional offices, Laboratories and other essential infrastructure. Without this core funding, the SPCBs cannot perform their regulatory or enforcement roles.
14. A substantial portion of the funds of APPCB is expended on the monitoring and surveillance activities, including operation and maintenance of ambient air quality monitoring stations, water quality monitoring networks, procurement and maintenance of sampling equipment, laboratory analysis of air, water and effluent samples, and hiring of vehicles for field inspections. These activities directly support compliance assessment under the Air and Water Acts.
15. It is humbly submitted that funds are also being utilized for core regulatory functions such as processing applications for Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO), conducting inspections of industrial units, preparation of inspection reports, issuance of directions and show-cause notices, and verification of compliance under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
16. It is further submitted that expenditure is incurred towards infrastructure development and capacity building, including establishment and upgradation of laboratories, procurement of advanced monitoring instruments, development and maintenance of IT systems such as online.




MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
VIJAYAWADA-520 007.

consent management portals, and training of staff on evolving environmental standards, technologies and legal procedures.

17. Additionally, it is also further submitted that funds are expended for the environmental enforcement and legal actions, including prosecution expenses, expert consultations, courts and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal related documentation, and technical studies required to support decisions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Funds of APPCB are also being utilized to carry out studies and the research project based on Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directions and Central Pollution Control Board's directions.
18. It is also further submitted that the funds are also spent for creating public awareness, news advertisement, Beach cleaning activities, Green Mission, Swarna Andhra - Swachha Andhra (SASA) programs and stakeholder engagement, such as conducting workshops for industries, awareness campaigns on pollution control norms, workshops on Circular Economy, Green rating and dissemination of guidelines issued by Central Pollution Control Board and MoEF& CC, GoI.
19. That the answering respondent respectfully submitted that, the funds allocated to the APPCB are strictly being utilized for the effective implementation of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 by supporting staffing, monitoring, regulatory enforcement, infrastructure development, legal compliance and capacity building, thereby enabling the Board to prevent, control and abate pollution within its jurisdiction.




MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
VIJAYAWADA-520 007.

20. That, the answering respondent humbly submits that the funds of the APPCB have not been diverted for any other development activities outside the scope and mandate of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Further, it is submitted that the APPCB on the request of the State Government, had funded the 2 schemes to the stake holder departments to ensure larger benefit of the environment and public health, in line with the Air & Water Act provisions, as follows:

S.No.	Name of the agency / department	Amount	Purpose	Environmental Benefits
1.	Commissioner, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) (Under MA & UD Dept)	Rs.4,57,92,503 (FY 2024-2025)	Towards procuring of one Amphibious multi-functional weed harvester unit	Amphibious multi-functional weed harvester is significant requirement to provide chemical free alternative to aquatic herbicides, and sustainable method for managing aquatic vegetation and restoring waterway health and eliminating risks to fish, wildlife, and non-target plant species for the usage of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation.



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MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
VIJAYAWADA-520 007.

				for the usage of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation.
2.	Commissioner, Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (PR & RD) Department	Rs.3,20,00,000 (FY 2025-2026)	Towards Solid waste management in Local bodies to clear legacy garbage dumps in 2000 Gram panchayats.	By clearing legacy garbage dumps, targeted to achieve reduction of Greenhouse Gases, groundwater and Soil Protection, Air Quality Improvement, reclamation of Land and reduced Need for New Landfills.

21) The present response filed by APPCB in compliance to order dated 23.02.2025, may kindly be taken on record. The APPCB will abide by all directions, as the Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and appropriate.


DEPONENT

MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
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VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent above named, do verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at Vijayawada on this 05th day of May, 2026.



Am
05/05/2026
Alla Ratneswara Rao
B.Com., LL.B
ADVOCATE - NOTARY
Appointed by Central Govt.
VIJAYAWADA, Krishna Dt. A.P.

DEPONENT

MEMBER SECRETARY
A.P. Pollution Control Board
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