



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.115 OF 2024 (WZ)

NEWS ITEM TITLED "HUNDREDS OF FISH FOUND DEAD  
IN INDRAYANI RIVER AT DEHU", APPEARING IN  
THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 15.03.2024

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE DEHU NAGAR  
PANCHAYAT

I, Mr.Chetan Konde Age 35 years, Occ: the Chief Officer,  
Dehu Nagar Panchayat, Taluka Maval, District Pune do here by  
state on solemn affirmation, as under :

- 1) I say that the Dehu Nagar Panchayat has already appeared and filed its Reply Affidavit. Dehu Nagar Panchayat was established on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 under the Maharashtra Municipal Council Nagar Panchayat and Industrial Township Act.
- 2) In the year 2018, the State of Maharashtra, under the Pilgrimage Development Plan, established a STP Plant of 3 MLD. The said plant is treating discharge of 3 MLD. The remaining generation is treated by way of soak pit. As per the news reported by The Times of India, in its Edition dated 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, dead fish were found in Indrayani River at Dehu in the month of March, 2024. During the months of March-April, the water bodies dried up and there

is hardly any water available in the Indrayani River in the section of Dehu. Because of the same, there is a possibility of the fish death.

- 3) The Dehu Nagar Panchayat was accorded a personal hearing by MPCB on 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025. As per the discussion in the meeting, this Respondent submitted an action plan. Apart from the same, the MPCB has submitted its Additional Affidavit dated 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 and submitted EDC as per their calculation. I say that this Respondent is not liable to pay any EDC. It is most respectfully submitted that this Nagar Panchayat itself was established on 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. While calculating the EDC, the date of commencement of the Nagar Panchayat has not been considered. The EDC calculated is not correctly calculated. It is submitted that this Nagar Panchayat cannot be levied with any EDC for a period prior to its establishment and without giving any sufficient opportunity to perform under various statutes.
- 4) Apart from the same, the State of Maharashtra has established an Authority, viz., Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA), under which not only Dehu Nagar Panchayat but also various Cities, along with the Indrayani fall within its territorial jurisdiction. The said Authority has initiated the process of establishment of STP not only for Dehu but also all other Towns and Cities in a



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unified and composite manner. The DPRs of various Towns and Cities have been already submitted with the PMRDA and the PMRDA is processing the same with the State and the Central Agencies. It would be inappropriate to hold this Respondent at fault and levy EDC.

5) Apart from the same, this Respondent has taken measures, from time to time, to curtail the pollution or otherwise address the same. At two locations, viz., Kapur Nala and Ghat Nala, the streams which were flowing in the River, has already been diverted to STP and being taken care of. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to levy EDC for the same for those two streams from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022. Therefore, no such EDC can be levied for the said two streams. Moreover, it would be inappropriate to levy compensation under the internal measures as well as the alleged failure to commence setting up as well as commission a STP. Moreover, it would be also inappropriate to charge any EDC for alleged failure to commission STP.

6) This Respondent submits that already the State of Maharashtra has established a 3 MLD STP plant and which is working and sewage is being treated. I say that already there is an existing 3 mld STP plant and the same is treating 3 mld sewage. The MPCB has also prepared a report on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 in which it is shown that the total domestic sewage generated is 3 mld and 2.7 mld is being treated. It



has further observed that 0.3 mld is being discharged. I say that for treating the sewage generated from the Dehu Nagar Panchayat STP Plant is installed as well as there are soak pits. As such, there is no any discharge of 0.3 mld in the Indrayani River. Moreover, whenever there is any issue regarding discharge observed, effort is taken to address the same and pertains to any such discharge.

- 7) I further submit that the bioremediation project of the Indrayani River is presently under execution by the Dehu Nagar Panchayat. In addition, the District Administration Office (Collector) has also undertaken initiatives for pollution abatement and rejuvenation of the Indrayani River.
- 8) Moreover, the repairing and rejuvenation project of the existing drainage scheme is under process of sanction with the District Planning and Development Committee and a new underground drainage scheme project is also under process of sanction with PMRDA. In this manner, the Dehu Nagar Panchayat is consistently making efforts to ensure proper drainage treatment and pollution control, despite being a newly formed body with limited financial resources.
- 9) Considering the aforesaid, it is most humbly requested not to levy any EDC on this Respondent. Apart from the same,



if any EDC is levied, the same shall affect the normal functioning of the Dehu Nagar Panchayat, which will include various utility services and also include functioning of STP Plant.

Whatever has been stated hereinabove is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and information and, in witness whereof, I have signed this at Pune on this 29th day of August, 2025.



*(Handwritten initials)*

*(Handwritten signature)*  
AFFIANT

I know the Affiant :

Advocate



BEFORE ME

*(Handwritten signature)*  
KALYANSINGH M. PARDESHI  
ADVOCATE & NOTARY  
GOVT. OF INDIA  
AP. Dehu Nagar, Tal. Haveli, Dist. Pune



11 SEP 2025

Noted And Registered  
at Serial Number.....

189/2025

