

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.15 OF 2025
(Earlier OA No. 1376/2024 (PB))**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU
based on the News Item titled "**Bengaluru's
nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO
standards says report**" appearing in the
Deccan Herald Newspaper dated
06.12.2024

And

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
Represented by its Chairman, New Delhi and Ors.

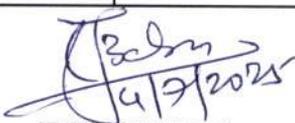
...Respondent(s).

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Place: Bengaluru

Date 04/07/2025


(DEPONENT)


Filed through CPCB Counsel

J. Chandra Babu
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN.OF ENV,FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.15 OF 2025

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And

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board

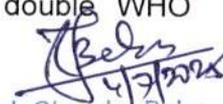
Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
Represented by its Chairman, New Delhi and Ors.

...Respondent(s)

REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 2, THE CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)

1. That, CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, Suo motu registered OA 1376/2024 in Principal Bench, New Delhi on the basis of the news item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO




J. Chandra Babu

REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN.OF ENV,FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
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standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald Newspaper dated 06.12.2024". That, as per the order dated 03.09.2024 by this Hon'ble Tribunal, Central Pollution Control Board was impleaded as Respondent No. 2 and Nodal office of the Joint Committee comprising of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'KSPCB'); Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'CPCB') and Regional Director, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru and the matter was transferred to the southern bench and renumbered as OA No 15/2025.

3. That with regard to the News item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald Newspaper dated 06.12.2024", that states annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration in 2023 in Bengaluru was found nearly double the standards prescribed by WHO. It recorded elevated NO₂ levels for 295 days and worst-hit area is City Railway Station where level of NO₂ exceeded the standards of WHO for 295 days in 2023. Other highly polluted areas included Hombegowda Nagar (125 days), Bapuji Nagar (120 days), and Peenya (119 days). Adverse impact of NO₂ is scientifically proved as exposure to excessive NO₂ has health impacts like risk of asthma, airway inflammation, respiratory irritation, and worsening of existing respiratory conditions. It can impair lung development, intensify allergies and increase susceptibility to respiratory mortality and death from circulatory diseases, ischemic health disease and even lung cancer. Please refer joint committee report attached at **Annexure I**.
4. It is submitted that in the Report titled, "Beyond North - NO₂ Pollution and Health Risks In Seven Major Indian Cities" published by the M/s Greenpeace India Society, December 2024, the research data used are from India's official air monitoring programme (CAAQM), the European Commission Joint Research Council's Emission Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGARv8.11) and European Space Agency satellite observations, alongside analysis of scientific literature,



J. Chandra Babu
24/12/2025

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J. Chandra Babu
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN. OF ENV, FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903

to investigate NO₂ air pollution. The findings underscore a need for improved air quality standards, and improved air quality management to protect public health.

5. That, as per the order dated 19.12.2024 (NGT(PB) and order dated 24.02.2025 by this Hon'ble Tribunal, SZ, Chennai the joint committee was constituted vide office order dated Jan 20, 2025. Accordingly, Report of the Joint Committee in the matter was prepared and attached as **Annexure I**.
6. That in the light of the above submissions, it is respectfully prayed that this Answering Respondent No.2 i.e., CPCB shall abide by any orders or directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal and render justice.

Dated at Bengaluru on this 04th day of July, 2025



Counsel for 2nd Respondent



(DEPONENT)



J. Chandra Babu
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN.OF ENV,FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.15 OF 2025

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06.12.2024

And

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),
Represented by its Chairman, New Delhi and Ors. ...Respondent(s).

AFFIDAVIT

I, Jathikartha Chandra Babu, Son of (Late) Sh. J Balaramaiah, aged about 57 years, having office at the Regional Directorate - Bengaluru, Central Pollution Control Board, 1st and 2nd Floors, Nisarga Bhavan, A-Block, Thimmaiah Main Road, 7th D Cross, Shivanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560 079, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under:-

1. I humbly submit that, I am the Regional Director of the 02nd Respondent in the matter, Central Pollution Control Board (referred to as 'CPCB' in the following paras), Regional Directorate, Bengaluru and I am well acquainted with the facts of the matter, hence, competent and authorized to file this response on behalf of the 02nd Respondent, i.e. CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.





J. Chandra Babu
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN.OF ENV,FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9888278903

3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

Dated at Bengaluru on this 04th day of July, 2025



DEPONENT

J. Chandra Babu

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN. OF ENV, FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
BENGALURU - 560 079. MOB: 9868278903

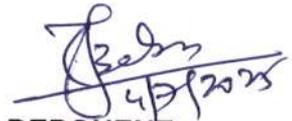
VERIFICATION

I, Jathikartha Chandra Babu, working as Scientist 'E' and posted as Regional Director (Bengaluru), Central Pollution Control Board, the respondent herein do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Verified at Bengaluru on this the 04th day of July, 2025.



Counsel for 2nd Respondent



DEPONENT

J. Chandra Babu

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU
(MIN. OF ENV, FOREST & CC, GOVT OF INDIA)
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Annexure I**Report of the Joint Committee in the matter of
OA No. 15 of 2025 (Earlier OA No. 1376/2024 (PB))****1. Preamble**

The Hon'ble NGT, Principal Bench, New Delhi vide Order dated 19.12.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1376/2024, a Suo-moto case registered based on the News Item titled "*Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report*" appearing in the Deccan Herald Newspaper dated 06.12.2024 issued the following directions;

"3. In our view, above facts give rise to substantial question relating to environment arising out of implementation of enactments mentioned in Scheduled-I of NGT Act, 2010 which requires immediate attention and remedial measures in larger public interest. However, before proceeding further in the matter, we find it appropriate to obtain a factual report for which we constitute a Joint Committee comprising Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'KSPCB'); Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'CPCB') and Regional Director, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru

4. CPCB shall be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance

5. The said committee shall visit site, collect relevant information and submit a factual report within two months with the Registrar, Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai of this Tribunal.

6. As the matter relates to State of Karnataka and is within the jurisdiction of Chennai Bench, therefore, Registry is directed to transmit record of this original application to Southern Zone Bench, Chennai for further proceedings."

Copy of NGT Order dated 19.12.2024 is attached as **Annexure II**.

The above case has been Suo Motu registered by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.1376 of 2024 (PB) based on the news item published in 'The Deccan Herald' dated 06.12.2024 titled, "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report", which has been transferred to the Southern Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.15 of 2025 (SZ). Copy of the NGT order dated 24.02.2025 is attached as **Annexure III**.

Accordingly, a joint committee was constituted with the following members:

1. Dr. R. Sridhar, Scientist 'D', Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru
2. Smt. P. K. Selvi, Scientist 'E', Regional Directorate, Central Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru (Nodal Officer)
3. Dr. Raghavendra, Deputy Scientific Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru

Copy of Office Order for constitution of Joint Committee in OA No. 15 of 2025 and Minutes of the first meeting of the Joint Committee are attached as **Annexure IV**.

2. Status of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Bengaluru:

Bengaluru has 14 (fourteen) ambient air quality monitoring stations with 11(eleven) stations operated and maintained by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and 3 stations maintained by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The status of these continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS) is given in table 1 as below;

Table 1. Operational Status of CAAQMS in Bengaluru

Sl. No	CAAQMS	Location	Monitoring agency	Type of area	Operational status
1.	Jigani Industrial Area, Bengaluru [Bengaluru Rural]	12.7817360, 77.6298970	KSPCB	Industrial	Operational
2.	Peenya Industrial Area, Shivapura, Peenya	13.0270199 77.494094	CPCB	Industrial	Operational
3.	NTTF, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru	12.938539 77.5901	KSPCB	Industrial	Operational
4.	BTM Layout, Bengaluru	12.9135218 77.5950804	CPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational
5.	BWSSB Kadabeesanahalli, Bengaluru	Under Relocation work	CPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Non-operational
6.	M/s Kavika-Mysore Road, Bapuji Nagar, Bengaluru	12.951913 77.539784	KSPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational
7.	City Railway Station, Bengaluru	12.977387 77.570555	KSPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational
8.	KSPCB office Building, Nisarga Bhavan, Saneguruvanahalli, Bangalore	12.990083 77.544655	KSPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational

9.	Shalini Ground, 541, 10 th Main Rd, 5 th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru	12.920984 77.584908	KSPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational
10.	RTO Office, Indiranagara, Bengaluru	13.004533 77.664561	KSPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational
11.	Central Silk Board, Silkboard Junction, HSR Layout, 5th Sector, Bengaluru	12.917348 77.622813	KSPCB	Commercial/ Residential	Operational
12.	NIMHANS, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases, Hombegowda Nagar, Bengaluru	12.938539 77.5901	KSPCB	Institutional area/other area	Operational
13.	RV College of Engineering, Mysore Road, Bengaluru	12.9212565 77.5024806	KSPCB	Institutional area/other area	Operational
14.	Veterinary College, Hebbal, Opp.: CBI Office, Hebbal, Bengaluru	13.029152 77.585901	KSPCB	Institutional area/other area	Operational

3. Observations of the Joint Committee:

1. The committee visited six monitoring stations on 23.01.2025, located at (i) City Railway Station, Bengaluru (ii) Saneguruvanahalli, Bengaluru, (iii) Hombegowda Nagar, Bengaluru, (iv) Bapuji Nagar, Bengaluru, (v) NTTF, Peenya, Bengaluru (vi) RTO Office, Indiranagara, Bengaluru.
2. The committee observed that the instrumentation installed in these stations are as per method of measurement defined in National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009 (NAAQS), and the maintenance and calibration of these instruments is being done adhering to CPCB guidelines and protocols.
3. Two stations namely, City Railway Station, Bengaluru and M/s Kavika-Mysuru Road, Bapuji Nagar, Bengaluru are located near roadside.
4. The annual average NO₂ concentration during 2023 remained within prescribed NAAQS i.e. 40 µg/m³, at all 13 monitoring locations. The maximum annual average NO₂ concentration (29 µg/m³) was observed at City Railway Station, while annual average concentration less than or equal to 20 µg/m³ was observed at 8 monitoring locations.
5. The 24 hourly average NO₂ concentration during 2023 also remained within prescribed NAAQS i.e. 80 µg/m³, at all the stations except at one station located at Bapuji Nagar,

Bengaluru, where percentage exceedance of 5% in terms of monitored days (17 out of 339 days monitored) was observed. During these 17 days of observed NO₂ exceedance, the concentration ranged between 81-97 µg/m³ (12 days in February 2023, 3 days in March 2023, 2 days in January 2023). The Ambient Air Quality data with respect to NO₂ for the year 2023 is given as table 2 below:

Table 2. Status of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in Bengaluru, 2023

S.No.	CAAQM Stations	Annual Average (µg/m ³)	Exceeding Annual Standard-NAAQS (40 µg/m ³) Yes/No	Percentage exceedance (in terms of monitored days) compared with 24 Hourly-NAAQS (80 µg/m ³)
1	BTM Layout Bengaluru - CPCB	24	No	0%
2	BWSSB Kadabesanahalli Bengaluru - CPCB	Under Relocation		
3	M/s Kavika–Mysore Road, Bapuji Nagar Bengaluru - KSPCB	24	No	5%
4	City Railway Station Bengaluru - KSPCB	29	No	0%
5	Hebbal Bengaluru - KSPCB	23	No	0%
6	Hombegowda Nagar Bengaluru - KSPCB	23	No	0%
7	Jayanagar 5th Block Bengaluru - KSPCB	14	No	0%
8	Jigani Bengaluru - KSPCB	13	No	0%
9	Kasturi Nagar Bengaluru – KSPCB	10	No	0%
10	Shivapura_Peenya Bengaluru - CPCB	25	No	1%
11	RVCE-Mailasandra Bengaluru - KSPCB	12	No	0%
12	Saneguravahalli Bengaluru - KSPCB	21	No	0%
13	NTTF_Peenya Bengaluru - KSPCB	15	No	0%
14	Silk Board Bengaluru - KSPCB	22	No	0%

Note: NAAQS- National Ambient Air Quality Standards

**Annual arithmetic mean of minimum 104 measurements in a year at a particular site taken twice a week 24 hourly at uniform intervals.*

***24 hourly or 08 hourly or 01 hourly monitored values, as applicable, shall be complied with 98 % of the time in a year. 2% of the time, they may exceed the limits but not on two consecutive two days of monitoring.*

6. The Committee observed that the report published by Greenpeace India Society compares the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in Bengaluru with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines of 2021.

It is submitted that, WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines, 2021 serves as advisory recommendations. In India, Ambient Air Quality is monitored in accordance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009 notified under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 vide notification G.S.R 826(E) dated 16.11.2009.

4. Concluding Remarks

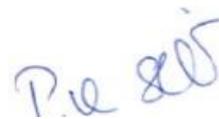
1. All the CAAQMS visited by the committee were found operational. The installed instruments, their maintenance, calibration and data generation adhered to the CPCB guidelines.
2. The annual average NO₂ concentration during 2023 remained within annual prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) i.e. 40 µg/m³, at all the 13 monitoring locations. The maximum annual average concentration (29 µg/m³) was observed at City Railway Station.
3. The 24 hourly average NO₂ concentration during 2023 also remained within prescribed NAAQS i.e. 80 µg/m³, at all the stations except at one station located at Bapuji Nagar, Bengaluru, where percentage exceedance of 5% in terms of monitored days was observed. It was observed that, there were 17 days of exceedance during January, February and March 2023. Upon further investigation, it was informed by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board that there were few incidents of open solid waste burning occurred. Also, Karnataka SPCB informed that there were no exceedance for the same period in 2024. The NO₂ levels during 2023 remained within prescribed annual standards (NAAQS).
4. As the report published by Greenpeace India Society compared the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in Bengaluru with the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines of 2021, it

is submitted that the WHO guideline makes recommendations for air quality levels to protect health of population and specifically mention that national standards should be decided in due consideration of other governing factors like background level, socio-economic status, national goals and further scientific research based outcome. However, these guidelines for ambient air quality are guidance to policy makers and are advisory in nature and are not mandated under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009 have been notified vide G.S.R 826(E) dated 16.11.2009.

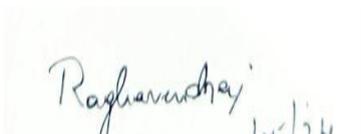
It is submitted that, with regard to revision of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, 2009, periodic revision of NAAQS has been undertaken by CPCB to include advancements in air pollution monitoring and health impact studies. Review of NAAQS-2009 through a joint team headed by IIT Kanpur is under progress. The other member institutes are All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi and National Physical Laboratory, (NPL), Delhi. Draft final report received from IIT Kanpur and is under review.



(Dr R Sridhar, Sc D
Regional Office, MOEF&CC
Bengaluru)



(P K Selvi, Sc E
Regional Directorate, CPCB
Bengaluru)



(Dr R Ragavendra
Deputy Scientific Officer Karnataka
SPCB)

Item No. 8

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1376/2024

News Item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 06.12.2024

Date of hearing: 19.12.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: None

ORDER

1. In the Deccan Herald newspaper published on 06.12.2024, a news item has been published under the title "Beyond North" stating that in Bengaluru, level of nitrogen dioxide (hereinafter referred to as '**NO₂**') has been found twice the standards prescribed by World Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as '**WHO**') and taking cognizance of the said news item, present application has been registered under Sections 14 and 15 of National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as NGT Act, 2010) in exercise of *suo-moto* jurisdiction, in view of law laid down by Supreme Court in **(2022) 13 SCC 401, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai v. Ankita Singha & Ors.**

2. News item states that annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration in 2023 in Bengaluru was found nearly double the standards prescribed by WHO. It recorded elevated NO₂ levels for 295 days and worst-hit area is City Railway Station where level of NO₂ exceeded the standards of WHO for 295 days in 2023. Other highly polluted areas included Hombegowda Nagar (125 days), Bapuji Nagar

(120 days), and Peenya (119 days). Adverse impact of NO₂ is scientifically proved as exposure to excessive NO₂ has health impacts like risk of asthma, airway inflammation, respiratory irritation, and worsening of existing respiratory conditions. It can impair lung development, intensify allergies and increase susceptibility to respiratory mortality and death from circulatory diseases, ischemic health disease and even lung cancer.

3. In our view, above facts give rise to substantial question relating to environment arising out of implementation of enactments mentioned in Scheduled-I of NGT Act, 2010 which requires immediate attention and remedial measures in larger public interest. However, before proceeding further in the matter, we find it appropriate to obtain a factual report for which we constitute a Joint Committee comprising Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as '**KSPCB**'); Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as '**CPCB**') and Regional Director, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru

4. CPCB shall be nodal authority for coordination and compliance.

5. The said committee shall visit site, collect relevant information and submit a factual report within two months with the Registrar, Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai of this Tribunal.

6. As the matter relates to State of Karnataka and is within jurisdiction of Chennai Bench, therefore, Registry is directed to transmit record of this original application to Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai for further proceedings.

7. A copy of this order be forwarded to Members of the Joint Committee by email for compliance.

8. List this matter for further proceedings on 24.02.2025 before Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai.

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

December 19, 2024
Original Application No. 1376/2024
JG.

Item No.01:-

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

[Through Physical Hearing (Hybrid Option)]

Original Application No.15 of 2025 (SZ)

[Earlier O.A. No.1376/2024(SZ)]

IN THE MATTER OF:

Tribunal on its own motion SUO MOTU based on the News Item in The Deccan Herald, dated 06.12.2024 titled "**Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report**".

And

Karnataka State Pollution Control Board,
and ors.



...Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 24.02.2025.

CORAM:

HON'BLE Smt. JUSTICE PUSHPA SATHYANARAYANA, JUDICIAL MEMBER

HON'BLE Dr. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER

For Applicant(s): Suo Motu.

For Respondent(s): Mr. Devraj Ashok for R3.
Mr. T.V. Sekar for R4.
Mr. Rajat Jonathan Shaw represented
Mr. K.M. Darpan for R5.

ORDER

1. The above case has been Suo Motu registered by the Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal, New Delhi as Original Application No.1376 of 2024 (PB) based on the news item published in '*The Deccan Herald*' dated 06.12.2024 titled, "**Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report**", which has been transferred to this Bench and renumbered as Original Application No.15 of 2025 (SZ).

2. Let notice be issued to the respondents through the Tribunal.

3. The learned counsel Mr. Devraj Ashok accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.1, Mr. T.V. Sekar accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.4 and Mr. Rajat Jonathan Shaw representing Mr. K.M. Darpan accepts notice on behalf of Respondent No.5.

4. The learned counsels appearing for the appropriate authorities are directed to take the papers from the Registry and file a report before the next date of hearing.

5. Post the matter on **23.04.2025**.

Sd/-

Smt. Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, JM

Sd/-

Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM

O.A. No.15/2025 (SZ)
24th February, 2025. AD.

Tech 39/Legal (NGT)/RDS/2024-256

January 20, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Constitution of the Joint Committee as per Hon'ble NGT Order dated 19.12.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1376/2024; News Item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 06.12.2024 before Hon'ble NGT, Principle Bench, New Delhi

Ref: NGT Order dated 19.12.2024 issued by Hon'ble Tribunal, Principle Bench, New Delhi

In the matter of O.A No. 1376 of 2024 regarding News Item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 06.12.2024, a Suo-Moto case registered by Hon'ble NGT, Principle Bench, New Delhi. Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 19.12.2024 constituted a joint committee comprising Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'KSPCB'), Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as 'CPCB') and Regional Director, Integrated Regional Office, MOEF & CC, Bengaluru. The Hon'ble NGT also directed the joint committee to visit the site, collect relevant information and submit a factual report **within two months** with the Registrar, NGT (SZ), Chennai. CPCB shall be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance.

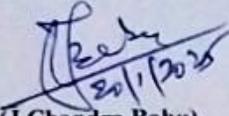
Accordingly, as per the nominations received from the concerned departments and the Joint Committee comprises following officials as detailed below:

1.	Dr R Sridhar, Scientist D & Joint Director, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Integrated Regional Office, Bengaluru	Member
2.	Dr Raghavendra, Deputy Scientific Officer, Central Environment Laboratory, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Nisarga Bhavan, Bengaluru	Member
3.	Smt P K Selvi, Scientist E & Additional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Bengaluru	Member & Nodal Officer

Terms of Reference

1. The committee shall visit the site and submit the factual report to Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

2. The Committee shall submit the report on or before 19.02.2025 (Wednesday) before Hon'ble NGT, SZ, Chennai.
3. The Committee shall meet for discussion and preparation of joint report in the matter from time to time.
4. TA/DA, sitting fee and local transport shall be borne by the parent organization of the concerned member.
5. The tenure of the Joint Committee shall be extended based on the further NGT directions in the matter.

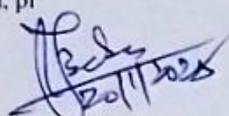

(J Chandra Babu)
Regional Director
CPCB, Bengaluru

To

1. The members of the Joint Committee (as per list enclosed) – For necessary compliance

Copy to

1. AO to MS, CPCB - For kind information of MS, pl
2. The Divisional Head, Law Division, CPCB, Delhi - For information, pl
3. The Divisional Head, AQM Division, CPCB, Delhi- For information, pl
4. ACO RD, CPCB, Bengaluru - For information, pl


(J Chandra Babu)

List of Members of Joint Committee

1. Dr R Sridhar
Scientist D & Joint Director
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Integrated Regional Office
CPCB, Bengaluru -
Email: sridhar.79@gov.in / (Mobile: 9790721219)
2. Dr R Raghavendra
Deputy Scientific Officer
Central Environment Laboratory
Nisarga Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 079
Email: raghu1979@gmail.com / (9880046189)
3. Smt P K Selvi
Scientist E & Additional Director
Central Pollution Control Board
Regional Directorate
Nisarga Bhavan, Shivanagar
Bengaluru – 560 079
Email: pkselvi.cpcb@nic.in / 9868166753

Annexure IV

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the Joint Committee in the matter of
OA No. 1376/2024**

Hon'ble NGT, Principle Bench, New Delhi vide NGT Order dated 19.12.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1376/2024, a Suo-moto case registered on the News Item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 06.12.2024 before Hon'ble NGT, Principle Bench, New Delhi issued following directions;

“3. In our view, above facts give rise to substantial question relating to environment arising out of implementation of enactments mentioned in Scheduled-I of NGT Act, 2010 which requires immediate attention and remedial measures in larger public interest. However, before proceeding further in the matter, we find it appropriate to obtain a factual report for which we constitute a Joint Committee comprising Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as ‘KSPCB’); Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as ‘CPCB’) and Regional Director, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Bengaluru

4. CPCB shall be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance

5. The said committee shall visit site, collect relevant information and submit a factual report within two months with the Registrar, Southern Zonal Bench, Chennai of this Tribunal.”

Accordingly, joint committee comprising of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Karnataka SPCB and CPCB (nodal agency) was constituted vide office order no. Tech 39/Legal (NGT)/RDS/2024-25/753-754 dated 20.01.2025 in the NGT matter. Officer Order dated 20.01.2025 is attached as **Annexure A**. CPCB being the nodal agency convened First meeting of the joint committee on 20.01.2025 in Conference Hall, Nisarga Bhawan, CPCB, Regional Directorate, Bengaluru. List of participants is enclosed as **Annexure B**.

Smt P K Selvi, Sc E & Nodal Officer, welcomed the participants and presented the Hon'ble NGT order dated 19.12.2024. She placed NGT records before the committee that mentions, *“News item states that annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentration in 2023 in Bengaluru was found nearly double the standards prescribed by WHO. It recorded elevated NO₂ levels for 295 days and worst-hit area is City Railway Station where level of NO₂ exceeded the standards of WHO for 295 days in 2023. Other highly polluted areas included Hombegowda Nagar (125 days), Bapuji Nagar (120 days), and Peenya (119 days). Adverse impact of NO₂ is scientifically proved as exposure to excessive NO₂ has health impacts like risk of asthma, airway inflammation, respiratory irritation, and worsening of existing respiratory conditions. It can impair lung development, intensify allergies and increase susceptibility to respiratory mortality and death from circulatory diseases, ischemic health disease and even lung cancer.”*

In this regard, it was mentioned that Report titled ‘BEYOND NORTH’ published by M/s Green Peace India Society, Bengaluru was reviewed by the members of the committee for

findings and conclusion with regard to NO₂ levels in case of Bengaluru. It was found in the report that in Bengaluru, annual NO₂ concentrations in 2023:

- Exceeded the health based WHO guideline at all 13 air quality monitors analysed, and
- Were highest at City Railway Station monitoring station, and
- Monitoring stations that exceeded WHO health guidelines in 2023 were located near five schools

Also, it was mentioned that in 2023, daily NO₂ concentrations were higher than the WHO daily guideline at the city railway station for 80% of the year. Over the last five years, Trends in NO₂ concentrations from ground level monitors show no strong evidence that NO₂ air quality is improving. In fact, satellite observations of NO₂ in the atmosphere suggest pollution across the whole city is worsening as per the above report by M/s Green Peace India Society, Bengaluru.

First Meeting of the Joint Committee as per Hon'ble NGT Order dated 19.12.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1376/2024; News Item titled "Bengaluru's nitrogen dioxide levels are double WHO standards says report" appearing in the Deccan Herald dated 06.12.2024 before Hon'ble NGT, Principle Bench, New Delhi.

Dr Raghavendra, Sr Scientific Officer, KSPCB expressed that the ambient air quality with regard to conc of NO₂ is complying with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Notification dated 18th November, 2009 in 13 CAAQMS stations in Bengaluru. He also stated that, the NO₂ levels are compared with WHO guidelines wherein the standard are not imposed in all the countries across the world, as the standards are region specific. However, the said report also mentions that, *"India must achieve the World Health Organisation's health based air quality guidelines. However, the different climates and pollution patterns of India's regions necessitate a tailored approach. Allowing for regional heterogeneity may help achieve the greatest possible health benefit in the shortest possible time. Ambitious revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards are urgently needed; last revised in 2009, they are out of date. The World Health Organisation's interim targets for air quality provide a means for developing locally feasible routes toward improved air quality."*

Therefore, he mentioned that revision of NAAQS, 2009 may be discussed with the authorities of Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi for the status and notification.

Dr Sridhar, Sc D, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF & CC mentioned that, the status of revision of NAAQS, 2009 to be ensured and concurrence to be obtained from CPCB, Delhi and MoEF&CC, New Delhi before placing before Hon'ble NGT, SZ, Chennai.

After discussion, it was agreed by the members of the committee that,

- (i) Visit of the joint committee shall be conducted on 23.01.2025 (Thu) to ensure the status of operation of CAAQMS, location criteria, Calibration status and Air Quality status in the four locations namely, (i) City Railway Station, (ii) Hombegowda Nagar, (iii) Bapuji Nagar, (iv) NTTF, Peenya and (v) Indiranagara.
- (ii) Next joint committee meeting is scheduled on 28.01.2025 to discuss the draft report of the joint committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.

*Annexure B***List of Participants**

S.No	Name & Organization	Contact information
1.	Dr R Sridhar, Sc D, MoEF & CC	9790721219
2.	Dr Raghavendra, SSO, KSPCB	9880046189
3.	Smt P K Selvi, Sc E, CPCB	9868166753