

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

O.A. No. 245 of 2024 (SZ)

IN THE MATTER OF:

SUO MOTU based on the News item in
Deccan Herald dt: 20.07.2024 titled,
"Karnataka among worst performing
States in clean air programme spending
Bengaluru at bottom among cities."

...Applicant

And

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

...Respondent(s)

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Dated at Chennai this the 22nd day of September 2025.



Counsel for Respondent No. 3

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE BENCH, CHENNAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 245/2024

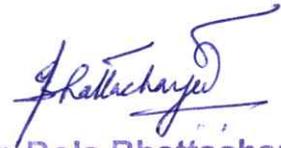
IN THE MATTER OF:

**SUO MOTU based on the News Item in Deccan Herald dt:
20.07.2024 titled, "Karnataka among worst performing states in
clean air programme spending; Bengaluru at bottom among cities"**

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT No. 3- MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
THROUGH ITS REGIONAL OFFICE, BENGALURU.**

I, Dr. Dola Bhattacharjee, aged about 41 Years, presently working as Scientist "B" in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate Change, Regional Office having office at Bengaluru, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as hereunder:

1. That I am competent to swear this affidavit on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Regional Office, Bengaluru being the Respondent in the present Application.



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Integrated Regional Office, Kendriya Sadan
IVth Floor, E&F Wings, Bengaluru - 560 034.

2. That the Answering Respondent is engaged in, *inter alia*, policy formulation for abatement, control, and prevention of pollution and prescribing environmental standards to be implemented through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).

3. It is respectfully submitted that, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, in 2019 launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), to improve air quality in 130 cities in 24 States/UTs. NCAP, a meticulously designed program, follows a comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative approach to address air pollution in targeted cities.

NCAP focuses on the preparation and implementation of the National level action plan, State level action plans & City level action plans of the targeted 130 cities. State Action Plans have been prepared by all 24 States/UTs. City-level action plans have been prepared in 130 cities. Further, Annual Action Plans are prepared by cities for taking measures for the improvement of air quality.

In addition, NCAP emphasises on implementation of City Action Plans (CAPs) through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, SATAT, and Nagar Van Yojana, as well


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as resources from State/UT Governments and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities.

A performance-based incentive grant is provided under NCAP to cities for funding the critical gap. An amount of Rs. 20,130 crore has been allocated for 130 cities during 2019-20 till 2025-26. So far, Rs. 13,236.77 crore has been provided till 2025-26. Allocation and release of funds are linked with air quality improvement performance and achievement of annual targets (PM10 reductions) in respective cities. 48 Million-Plus Cities/ Urban Agglomerations are funded under the XVth Finance Commission Million-Plus City Challenge fund as an air quality performance grant, and the remaining 82 cities are funded under the Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC.

Four cities in Karnataka (**Bengaluru, Davanagere, Kalaburagi, and Hubli-Dharwad**) have been categorized as non-attainment cities for non-conforming to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards consecutively for 5 years for PM10 levels. Bengaluru city is funded under the XVth Finance Commission Million-Plus City Challenge Fund, and Davanagere, Kalaburagi, and Hubli-Dharwad are funded under the Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC for taking air quality improvement measures in their cities.



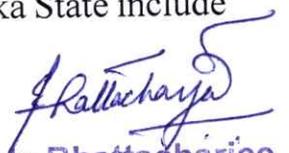
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Accordingly, these cities were included under the National Clean Air Programme for improving air quality through the implementation of Clean Air Action Plans. Cities have been provided annual air pollution reduction targets for PM10 levels. All four cities have prepared city action plans to address various sectors of activities to improve air quality.

4. It is respectfully submitted that ₹ 618.82 crore has been released to 04 cities of Karnataka, namely Bengaluru, Gulbarga, Hubli-Dharwad, and Davanagere, during the FY 2019-20 to 2025-26 (till 15th Sept, 2025) for implementation of City Action Plans under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Karnataka State has reported utilisation of ₹ 471.82 crore (76%) on the Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities (PRANA). The details of release and utilisation of funds by cities of the Karnataka State under NCAP are provided at **Annexure I.**

5 . It is respectfully submitted that Bengaluru has undertaken Source Apportionment Study that mentions the contributions of PM10 levels are from road dust (51%), from transportation (18%), from wood combustion (6.4%), and from construction dust (6%). Accordingly, Bengaluru has prioritized key sources of its actions based on the Source Apportionment Study. The works undertaken by Karnataka State include

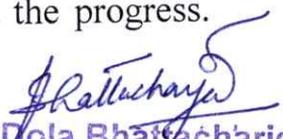

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31.64 km end-to-end paving of roads of ₹40.09 crores, 151.94 acres of greening including 13.05 km of greening of traffic corridor for ₹ 45.9 Cr, mechanical road sweeping machines covering 330 kilometers daily for ₹ 8 Cr, and 127 EV buses for ₹ 55 crores.

Overall, the Source Apportionment Studies conducted in cities have revealed that more than 40% contribution of PM10 levels are from road dust. Accordingly, cities have prioritized their actions addressing the road dust. For addressing vehicular pollution, several policies and programs have been launched and implemented by the Government of India, such as the PM E-bus Sewa scheme, PM E-Drive, Vehicle Scrapping Policy, etc. In addition, to address industrial pollution, State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) have been monitoring the compliance of industrial pollution under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, through the concerned mechanism.

6. It is respectfully submitted that the Steering Committee has been constituted at the level of the State Government, Air Quality Monitoring Committee has been constituted Principal Secretary, Environment Department. All cities have constituted city-level committees in order to prepare an annual action plan to review and implement the progress.


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MoEFCC has also constituted Central-level Committees to review the progress of the National Clean Air Programme. They have been regularly reviewing the monitoring and implementation of NCAP in all States/UTs, including Karnataka. The details of the meetings held by various Committees constituted in Karnataka State under NCAP are placed at **Annexure II**.

7. It is respectfully submitted that there are four cities of Karnataka covered under the National Clean Air Programme (Bengaluru, Devanagere, Hubli-Dharwad & Gulbarga). All 04 cities of Karnataka have shown improvement in PM10 concentrations in FY 2024-25 with respect to the levels of FY 2017-18, and 02 cities (Devanagere & Gulbarga) have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), i.e., PM10 levels below 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in FY 2024-25. The details of the improvement in PM10 concentrations in four cities of Karnataka in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18 are placed at **Annexure III**.

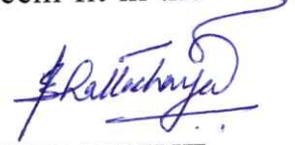
8. It is respectfully submitted that the MoEFCC is actively implementing several regulatory and policy measures to ensure effective enforcement of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Wherever gaps in compliance have been noted, appropriate remedial actions are undertaken in coordination with the State Government, SPCBs, and concerned authorities.


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9. That, the Answering Respondent reserves its right to file additional information before the Hon'ble Tribunal, if required, till Pendente-Lite.

10. That, in view of the foregoing submissions, this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass such or further orders as it may deem fit in the given circumstances of the case.



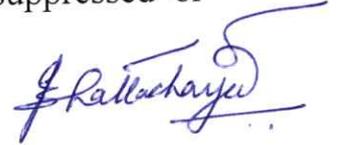
DEPONENT

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VERIFICATION

Verified at Bengaluru on the 22nd day of September 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.



DEPONENT

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Annexure A - 1**Annexure I****Details of City-wise release & utilization of funds under NCAP during FY 2019-20 to 2025-26 (till 15th Sept, 2025)****(Amount in ₹ Crore)**

City	Total released	Total Utilisation	Utilization %
Bengaluru	541.1	430.91	79.6%
Gulbarga	33.72	12.36	36.6%
Hubli-Dharwad	28.65	16.19	56.5%
Devanagere	15.35	12.36	80.5%
Total	618.82	471.82	76%

Annexure A - 2**Annexure II****Details of meetings held by various Committees constituted in Karnataka State under NCAP**

Meetings	No. of meetings held till date	No. of meetings held in FY 2024-25	No. of meetings held in FY 2025-26
State level Steering	6	3	0
State level Air Quality Monitoring Committee/ State Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (AQMC)	17	3	1
District/City Level Monitoring & Implementation Committee			
Bengaluru	6	1	0
Gulbarga	5	1	1
Hubli-Dharwad	10	1	1
Devanagere	14	4	2
Total	35	7	4

Annexure III

Improvement in PM10 concentrations in four cities of Karnataka in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18

S. No.	Cities	2017-18	2024-25	Improvement in PM10 concentrations with respect to 2017-18 (%)
		Average PM10 concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Current Year Average PM10 concentrations ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	
1	Bengaluru	92	68	26.1
2	Devanagere	74	57*	23
3	Hubli-Dharwad	79	61	22.8
4	Gulbarga	55	52*	5.5

* National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10 level is $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

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REPORT FILED BY
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