

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 159/2024 (WZ)  
EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 725/2024 (PB) (LP)**

**IN THE MATTER OF: -**

**NEWS ITEM TITLED "GUJARAT GST COMMISSIONER GRABS 620 ACRES  
FROM ENTIRE VILLAGE NEAR MAHARASHTRA'S MAHABALESHWAR"  
APPEARING IN THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL DATED 18.05.2024.**

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(Pratik D. Bharne)

**Regional Director**

Place: Pune

Date: 12/11/2024

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director  
 केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
 Central Pollution Control Board  
 क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे / Regional Directorate, Pune  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
 M/o Env't. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India  
 सर्वे नं. ११०, हीराबाई धनकुडे हॉल, बाणेर रोड, बाणेर, पुणे - 411045  
 Sr. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune-411045

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 159 /2024 (WZ)  
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NEWS ITEM TITLED "GUJARAT GST COMMISSIONER GRABS 620 ACRES FROM ENTIRE VILLAGE NEAR MAHARASHTRA'S MAHABALESHWAR" APPEARING IN THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL DATED 18.05.2024.

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

1. That, Hon'ble NGT(PB) vide order dated 04/07/2024 has sought the reply of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) in the instant matter and transferred the matter to Western Zonal Bench, Pune, for further action. Thereby, the reply is made in this instant Original Application (hereinafter referred as OA) in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, Central Pollution Control Board 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.

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSION

3. That, the matter is related to Suo Motu case registered on the basis of the News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appeared in The Free Press Journal dated

18/05/2024 regarding acquisition of approx. 600 acres of land spanning an entire village in Kandati Valley, Satara District in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner of Gujarat and his family members. Further, the News Article alleged that there is serious threat to natural resources and the environment including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change.

4. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB has pursued the said matter with Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (herein after referred as MPCB), Principal Chief Conservator of Forest-Maharashtra, District Collector- Satara, vide letters dated 27/08/2024 with a request to submit Action Taken Report (ATR) in the said matter. However, replies in this regard are yet to be received from the said Board/Departments. Copies of the correspondence letters addressed to the said Board/Departments are given at **Annexure-R2-I**.
5. That, it is humbly submitted that the alleged land acquisition from the aggrieved villagers by the concerned Board/Departments may be suitably answered by the respective Respondents. It is further humbly submitted that violations, if any, under the concerned Acts/Rules are to be dealt by the respective Board/Departments as per provisions stipulated under such Acts/Rules.
6. That, in light of the above submissions, this Answering Respondent No. 2 i.e. CPCB shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the present Original Application.

  
Pratik D. Bharne

(Scientist 'E' & Regional Director)

**Central Pollution Control Board**

केन्द्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

Central Pollution Control Board

केन्द्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे/Regional Directorate, Pune

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

M/o Env't. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India

सर्वे नं. ११०, हीराबाई धनकुडे हॉल, बाणेर रोड, बाणेर, पुणे - 411045

Sr. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune-411045

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 159 /2024 (WZ)**

**EARLIAR ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 725/2024 (PB) (LP)**

**IN THE MATTER OF: -**

**NEWS ITEM TITLED "GUJARAT GST COMMISSIONER GRABS 620 ACRES FROM ENTIRE VILLAGE NEAR MAHARASHTRA'S MAHABALESHWAR" APPEARING IN THE FREE PRESS JOURNAL DATED 18.05.2024.**

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Pratik D. Bharme, working as Scientist 'E' & Regional Director in Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Survey No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune – 411045, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under:

1. That the deponent is authorized representative to represent the Respondent-CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent-CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the contents there of 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.



  
**DEPONENT**

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director  
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
Central Pollution Control Board  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे / Regional Directorate, Pune  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
M/o Env't. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India  
सर्वे नं. ११०, हीराबाई धनकुडे हॉल, बाणेर रोड, बाणेर, पुणे - 411045  
Sr. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune-411045

**VERIFICATION**

Verified at Pune on this day <sup>12<sup>th</sup></sup> November 2024 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

*Prakash D.S.*

**DEPONENT – Respondent No. 2**

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director  
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
Central Pollution Control Board  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे / Regional Directorate, Pune  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
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Sr. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune-411045

**COUNSEL for Respondent No. 2**

Noted & Registered  
At Sr.No...972/2024

**BEFORE ME**

*msly*

**MANISHA SAMEER CHITNIS**  
NOTARY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**13 NOV 2024**





केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India)  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पूणे  
Regional Directorate, Pune

File No: CM-13015/13/2024-LAW-RD-PUNE-RD (Pune)/ 870

Date: 27/08/2024

To

The Collector,

District - Satara, Maharashtra

Sub: Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in Earlier O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024." – reg.

Sir,

This has reference to the Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024. The matter is related to the acquisition of approx. 600 acres of land spanning an entire village in Kandati Valley, Satara district in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner of Gujarat and his family members. further the news article alleged that there is serious threat to natural resources and the environment including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change.

The NGT Principal Bench vide order dtd. 04.07.2024 in the said Suo Motu matter, impleaded the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest- Maharashtra, District Collector- Satara) as respondent to file their response. The Original Application is transferred to the

Western Zonal Bench, Pune for appropriate further action. Copy of Hon'ble NGT(PB) order dtd. 04/07/2024 and copy of news-item dtd. 18/05/2024 are enclosed for ready references.

In this regard, it is requested to kindly arrange to examine the news-item in light of the said order and provide Action Taken Report (ATR), if any. The matter is listed on 06/09/2024.

Encl.: as above

Yours faithfully,

  
(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

---

सर्वे नं. 110, हीराबाई धनकुडे बहुउद्देशीय हॉल, बानेर रोड, बानेर, पुणे - 411045  
S. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411045

ईमेल: [rdpune.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:rdpune.cpcb@gov.in) दुरभाष/Tel.: 020-29912773

प्रधान कार्यालय: केप्रनिबो, परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली- 110032

वेबसाइट/Website: [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 725/2024

News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024

Date of hearing: 04.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024.

2. The matter relates to the acquisition of land spanning an entire village approximated to be over 600 acres in Kandati Valley, Satara district in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner in Gujarat. The news item states that the officer and his family have purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar. It alleges that the villagers of the area have been informed that their land is being acquired by the Government.

3. The news item highlights the various threats that this action has brought upon to the natural resources and the environment. These violations are having serious consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change. It states that

there is already considerable damage to the environment in the interior areas due to unauthorized construction, digging, and cutting of trees, illegal roads, and power supply from the forest border. Furthermore, from the past three years, illegal construction, large-scale mining, and excavation have been going on in the neighborhood. However, no action has been taken against the same.

4. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
5. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.
6. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.
7. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in this matter:
  - i. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Theatre, Sion (E),  
Mumbai-400 022
  - ii. Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032  
Phone No: 011-43102030
  - iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India,  
Regional Office (Maharashtra), Through its Secretary

Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur- 440001

iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra

M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road Civil Lines Nagpur 44001

v. Collector & District Magistrate, Satara

District Collector Office, Powai Naka

Satara - 415001

8. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response before the Western Zonal Bench of the Tribunal.
9. Since the matter relates to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune, therefore, OA is transferred to the Western Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Let the original record of this OA be transferred to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune.
10. List before Western Zonal Bench at Pune on 06.09.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

July 04, 2024  
O.A. No. No. 725/2024  
HB

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Home Business Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres From Entire Village Near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar

## Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres From Entire Village Near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar

*A land dispute has recently brought the spectacularly scenic Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar in Satara district*

G.R. Mukesh | Updated: Saturday, May 18, 2024, 01:38 PM IST



Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra |

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**Maharashtra:** A GST commissioner from Gujarat, Chandrakant Valvi, currently serving in Ahmedabad, has purchased land spanning an entire village in Kandati Valley, Satara District in Maharashtra, estimated to be over 600 acres.

According to reports, Chandrakant Valvi, a resident of Nandurbar and currently the Chief Commissioner of GST in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, along with his family and relatives, has purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar.

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This has revealed the terrible reality of grabbing 620 acres of land there. Many important laws, like the Environment Protection Act of 1986, the Forest Conservation Act of 1976, and the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, are being violated regularly.

Violations of these laws pose a serious threat to natural resources and the environment. These violations are having serious consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change.

**No More Tax On 'Gifts': Bombay HC Rules Against Taxing Capital Gains On Gifted Assets**



At present, there is considerable damage to the environment in the interior areas due to unauthorized construction, digging, cutting of trees, illegal roads, and power supply from the forest border.

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Illegal construction, large-scale mining, and excavation have been going on in the neighbourhood for the last 3 years, but surprisingly, no element of the administration had any inkling of it. This has revealed the horrifying reality that no government official comes around to check.

According to reports, local social activist Sushant More has said that this alleged GST official told everyone in the village that their land would be acquired by the government.

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केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

(Ministry of Environment, Forests &amp; Climate Change, Government of India)

क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पूणे

Regional Directorate, Pune



File No: CM-13015/13/2024-LAW-RD-PUNE-RD (Pune)/ 868

Date: 27/08/2024

To,

✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest

Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,

3rd Floor, Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines,

Nagpur, Maharashtra -440 001

Maharashtra

Sub: Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in Earlier O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024."- reg.

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The NGT Principal Bench vide order dtd. 04.07.2024 in the said Suo Motu matter, impleaded the

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MoEF&CC), Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF)- Maharashtra, District Collector- Satara) as respondents to file their responses. The Original Application (OA) is transferred to the Hon'ble NGT, Western Zonal Bench, Pune for appropriate further action. Copy of Hon'ble NGT(PB) order dtd. 04/07/2024 and copy of news-item dtd. 18/05/2024 are enclosed for ready references.

In this regard, it is requested to kindly arrange to examine the news-item in light of the said order and provide Action Taken Report (ATR), if any. The Hon'ble NGT OA matter is listed on 06/09/2024.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

Copy to: -

Deputy Conservator of Forest

Deputy Conservator of Forests office of Satara,

Povai Naka, Old Trezery Compound,

Satara, Maharashtra - 415 001



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

---

सर्वे नं. 110, हीराबाई धनकुडे बहुउद्देशीय हॉल, बानेर रोड, बानेर, पुणे - 411045  
S. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411045

ईमेल: [rdpune.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:rdpune.cpcb@gov.in) दुरभाष/Tel.: 020-29912773

प्रधान कार्यालय: केप्रनिबो, परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली- 110032

वेबसाइट/Website: [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 725/2024

News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024

Date of hearing: 04.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024.
2. The matter relates to the acquisition of land spanning an entire village approximated to be over 600 acres in Kandati Valley, Satara district in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner in Gujarat. The news item states that the officer and his family have purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar. It alleges that the villagers of the area have been informed that their land is being acquired by the Government.
3. The news item highlights the various threats that this action has brought upon to the natural resources and the environment. These violations are having serious consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change. It states that

there is already considerable damage to the environment in the interior areas due to unauthorized construction, digging, and cutting of trees, illegal roads, and power supply from the forest border. Furthermore, from the past three years, illegal construction, large-scale mining, and excavation have been going on in the neighborhood. However, no action has been taken against the same.

4. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

5. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

6. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

7. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in this matter:

- i. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Theatre, Sion (E),  
Mumbai-400 022
- ii. Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032  
Phone No: 011-43102030
- iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India,  
Regional Office (Maharashtra), Through its Secretary

Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur- 440001

iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra

M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road Civil Lines Nagpur 44001

v. Collector & District Magistrate, Satara

District Collector Office, Powai Naka

Satara – 415001

8. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response before the Western Zonal Bench of the Tribunal.
9. Since the matter relates to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune, therefore, OA is transferred to the Western Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Let the original record of this OA be transferred to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune.
10. List before Western Zonal Bench at Pune on 06.09.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

July 04, 2024  
O.A. No. No. 725/2024  
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G R Mukesh | Updated: Saturday, May 18, 2024, 01:38 PM IST



Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra |

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**Maharashtra:** A GST commissioner from Gujarat, Chandrakant Valvi, currently serving in Ahmedabad, has purchased land spanning an entire village in Kandati Valley, Satara District in Maharashtra, estimated to be over 600 acres.

According to reports, Chandrakant Valvi, a resident of Nandurbar and currently the Chief Commissioner of GST in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, along with his family and relatives, has purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar.

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According to reports, local social activist Sushant More has said that this alleged GST official told everyone in the village that their land would be acquired by the government.

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केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India)

क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पूणे  
Regional Directorate, Pune

File No: CM-13015/13/2024-LAW-RD-PUNE-RD (Pune)/ 869

Date: 27/08/2024

To,  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest  
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest,  
3rd Floor, Van Bhavan, Ramgiri Road, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur, Maharashtra -440 001

Maharashtra

Sub: Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in Earlier O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024."- reg.

Sir,

This has reference to the Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024. The matter is related to the acquisition of approx. 600 acres of land spanning an entire village in Kandati Valley, Satara district in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner of Gujarat and his family members. further the news article alleged that there is serious threat to natural resources and the environment including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change.

The NGT Principal Bench vide order dtd. 04.07.2024 in the said Suo Motu matter, impluded the

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Ministry of

Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India (MoEF&CC), Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF)- Maharashtra, District Collector- Satara) as respondents to file their responses. The Original Application (OA) is transferred to the Hon'ble NGT, Western Zonal Bench, Pune for appropriate further action. Copy of Hon'ble NGT(PB) order dtd. 04/07/2024 and copy of news-item dtd. 18/05/2024 are enclosed for ready references.

In this regard, it is requested to kindly arrange to examine the news-item in light of the said order and provide Action Taken Report (ATR), if any. The Hon'ble NGT OA matter is listed on 06/09/2024.

Encl: As above

Yours faithfully,



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

Copy to: -

Deputy Conservator of Forest

Deputy Conservator of Forests office of Satara,

Povai Naka, Old Trezery Compound,

Satara, Maharashtra - 415 001



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

---

सर्वे नं. 110, हीराबाई धनकुडे बहुउद्देशीय हॉल, बानेर रोड, बानेर, पुणे - 411045  
S. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411045

ईमेल: [rdpune.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:rdpune.cpcb@gov.in) दुरभाष/Tel.: 020-29912773

प्रधान कार्यालय: केप्रनिबो, परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली- 110032

वेबसाइट/Website: [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 725/2024

News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024

Date of hearing: 04.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024.
2. The matter relates to the acquisition of land spanning an entire village approximated to be over 600 acres in Kandati Valley, Satara district in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner in Gujarat. The news item states that the officer and his family have purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar. It alleges that the villagers of the area have been informed that their land is being acquired by the Government.
3. The news item highlights the various threats that this action has brought upon to the natural resources and the environment. These violations are having serious consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change. It states that

there is already considerable damage to the environment in the interior areas due to unauthorized construction, digging, and cutting of trees, illegal roads, and power supply from the forest border. Furthermore, from the past three years, illegal construction, large-scale mining, and excavation have been going on in the neighborhood. However, no action has been taken against the same.

4. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

5. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

6. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

7. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in this matter:

- i. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Theatre, Sion (E),  
Mumbai-400 022
- ii. Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032  
Phone No: 011-43102030
- iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India,  
Regional Office (Maharashtra), Through its Secretary

Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur- 440001

iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra

M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road Civil Lines Nagpur 44001

v. Collector & District Magistrate, Satara

District Collector Office, Powai Naka

Satara - 415001

8. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response before the Western Zonal Bench of the Tribunal.
9. Since the matter relates to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune, therefore, OA is transferred to the Western Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Let the original record of this OA be transferred to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune.
10. List before Western Zonal Bench at Pune on 06.09.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

July 04, 2024  
O.A. No. No. 725/2024  
HB

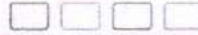
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CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India)  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पूणे  
Regional Directorate, Pune

File No: CM-13015/13/2024-LAW-RD-PUNE-RD (Pune)/ 865

Date: 27/08/2024

To

✓ The Member Secretary,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Theatre,  
Sion (E), Mumbai-400 022

Sub: Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in Earlier O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024." – reg.

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The NGT Principal Bench vide order dtd. 04.07.2024 in the said Suo Motu matter, impleaded the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest- Maharashtra, District Collector- Satara) as respondent to file their response. The Original Application (OA) is transferred

to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune for appropriate further action. Copy of Hon'ble NGT(PB) order dtd. 04/07/2024 and copy of news article dtd. 18/05/2024 are enclosed for ready references.

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Yours Faithfully,

Encl.: As above

  
(PRATIK D. BHARNE)  
Regional Director

Copy to: -

1. Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
OG Center, 3rd floor, Mumbai Pune Road,  
Wakdewadi, Pune - 411003.
2. Sub-Regional Officer,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Sub-Regional Office, New Government Bhavan,  
2nd Floor, Near S.T. Sand, Sadar Bazar,  
Satara - 415 001

  
(PRATIK D. BHARNE)  
Regional Director

---

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S. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411045

ईमेल: [rdpune.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:rdpune.cpcb@gov.in) दुरभाष/Tel.: 020-29912773

प्रधान कार्यालय: केप्रनिबो, परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली- 110032

वेबसाइट/Website: [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
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Original Application No. 725/2024

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Date of hearing: 04.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

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Mumbai-400 022
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Phone No: 011-43102030
  - iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India,  
Regional Office (Maharashtra), Through its Secretary

Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur- 440001

iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra

M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road Civil Lines Nagpur 44001

v. Collector & District Magistrate, Satara

District Collector Office, Powai Naka

Satara - 415001

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July 04, 2024  
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HB

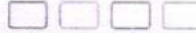
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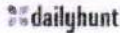




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(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India)  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पूणे  
Regional Directorate, Pune

File No: CM-13015/13/2024-LAW-RD-PUNE-RD (Pune)/ 866

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The NGT Principal Bench vide order dtd. 04.07.2024 in the said Suo Motu matter, impleaded the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest- Maharashtra, District Collector- Satara) as respondent to file their response. The Original Application (OA) is transferred

to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune for appropriate further action. Copy of Hon'ble NGT(PB) order dtd. 04/07/2024 and copy of news article dtd. 18/05/2024 are enclosed for ready references.

In this regard, it is requested to kindly arrange to examine the news-item in light of the said order and provide Action Taken Report (ATR), if any. The Hon'ble NGT OA matter is listed on 06/09/2024.

Yours Faithfully,

Encl.: As above



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

Copy to: -

✓ 1. Regional Officer,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
OG Center, 3rd floor, Mumbai Pune Road,  
Wakdewadi, Pune - 411003.

2. Sub-Regional Officer,

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Sub-Regional Office, New Government Bhavan,  
2nd Floor, Near S.T. Sand, Sadar Bazar,  
Satara - 415 001



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

---

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Item No. 06

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 725/2024

News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024

Date of hearing: 04.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024.
2. The matter relates to the acquisition of land spanning an entire village approximated to be over 600 acres in Kandati Valley, Satara district in Maharashtra by a GST Commissioner in Gujarat. The news item states that the officer and his family have purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar. It alleges that the villagers of the area have been informed that their land is being acquired by the Government.
3. The news item highlights the various threats that this action has brought upon to the natural resources and the environment. These violations are having serious consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change. It states that

there is already considerable damage to the environment in the interior areas due to unauthorized construction, digging, and cutting of trees, illegal roads, and power supply from the forest border. Furthermore, from the past three years, illegal construction, large-scale mining, and excavation have been going on in the neighborhood. However, no action has been taken against the same.

4. The above news item indicates violation of the provisions of the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
5. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.
6. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.
7. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in this matter:
  - i. Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Theatre, Sion (E),  
Mumbai-400 022
  - ii. Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032  
Phone No: 011-43102030
  - iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India,  
Regional Office (Maharashtra), Through its Secretary

Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur- 440001

iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra

M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road Civil Lines Nagpur 44001

v. Collector & District Magistrate, Satara

District Collector Office, Powai Naka

Satara – 415001

8. Let notice be issued to the above Respondents for filing their response before the Western Zonal Bench of the Tribunal.
9. Since the matter relates to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune, therefore, OA is transferred to the Western Zonal Bench for appropriate further action. Let the original record of this OA be transferred to the Western Zonal Bench, Pune.
10. List before Western Zonal Bench at Pune on 06.09.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

July 04, 2024  
O.A. No. No. 725/2024  
HB

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Home Business Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres From Entire Village Near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar

# Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres From Entire Village Near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar

*A land dispute has recently brought the spectacularly scenic Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar in Satara district*

G R Mukesh | Updated: Saturday, May 18, 2024, 01:38 PM IST



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**Maharashtra:** A GST commissioner from Gujarat, Chandrakant Valvi, currently serving in Ahmedabad, has purchased land spanning an entire village in Kandati Valley, Satara District in Maharashtra, estimated to be over 600 acres.

According to reports, Chandrakant Valvi, a resident of Nandurbar and currently the Chief Commissioner of GST in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, along with his family and relatives, has purchased the entire village of Jhadani village near Mahabaleshwar.

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This has revealed the terrible reality of grabbing 620 acres of land there. Many important laws, like the Environment Protection Act of 1986, the Forest Conservation Act of 1976, and the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, are being violated regularly.

Violations of these laws pose a serious threat to natural resources and the environment. These violations are having serious consequences, including the loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution, and climate change.

**No More Tax On 'Gifts': Bombay HC Rules Against Taxing Capital Gains On Gifted Assets**

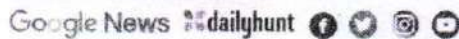
At present, there is considerable damage to the environment in the interior areas due to unauthorized construction, digging, cutting of trees, illegal roads, and power supply from the forest border.

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Illegal construction, large-scale mining, and excavation have been going on in the neighbourhood for the last 3 years, but surprisingly, no element of the administration had any inkling of it. This has revealed the horrifying reality that no government official comes around to check.

According to reports, local social activist Sushant More has said that this alleged GST official told everyone in the village that their land would be acquired by the government.

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केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India)  
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पूणे  
Regional Directorate, Pune

File No: CM-13015/13/2024-LAW-RD-PUNE-RD (Pune)/ 867

Date: 27/08/2024

To

The Member Secretary,  
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th floor, Opp. PVR Theatre,  
Sion (E), Mumbai-400 022

Sub: Hon'ble NGT Matter in O.A. No. 159/2024 (WZ) in Earlier O.A. No. 725/2024 (PB) in re News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner grabs 620 acres from entire village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024."- reg.

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(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

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OG Center, 3rd floor, Mumbai Pune Road,  
Wakdewadi, Pune - 411003.

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Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,  
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2nd Floor, Near S.T. Sand, Sadar Bazar,  
Satara - 415 001



(PRATIK D. BHARNE)

Regional Director

---

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S. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Multipurpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411045

ईमेल: [rdpune.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:rdpune.cpcb@gov.in) दुरभाष/Tel.: 020-29912773

प्रधान कार्यालय: केप्रनिबो, परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली- 110032

वेबसाइट/Website: [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in)

Item No. 06

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 725/2024

News Item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024

Date of hearing: 04.07.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This Original Application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres from Entire Village near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar" appearing in The Free Press Journal dated 18.05.2024.
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Ground Floor, East Wing, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines,  
Nagpur- 440001

iv. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Maharashtra

M.S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Van Bhavan Ramgiri Road Civil Lines Nagpur 44001

v. Collector & District Magistrate, Satara

District Collector Office, Powai Naka

Satara - 415001

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Prakash Shrivastava, CP

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July 04, 2024  
O.A. No. No. 725/2024  
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Home Business Gujarat GST Commissioner Grabs 620 Acres From Entire Village Near Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar

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G R Mukesh | Updated: Saturday, May 18, 2024, 01:38 PM IST



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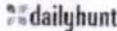




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