

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 48/2025 (WZ)

IN THE MATTER OF: -

AMEET SINGH

APPLICANT

VERSUS

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION & ORS.

RESPONDENT(S)

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Pratik D. Bharne

(Pratik D. Bharne)

Regional Director

Place: Pune

Date: 31/07/2025

प्रतिक भरणे / Pratik Bharne

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director

केन्द्रीय 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 धक्कुटे हॉल, बानेर रोड, बानेर, पुणे - ४११ ०४५

Sr. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411 045

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REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 03,
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)

1. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Western Zone Bench (WZ), Pune (hereinafter referred to as "Hon'ble NGT") vide its order dated 17/06/2025 in Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "OA") No. 48/2025 (WZ) has sought the reply of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, at the outset, the Answering Respondent deny all claims, contentions, allegations and averments against the Answering Respondent i.e. CPCB in the above OA contrary to anything stated or submitted in this reply. Nothing in the OA may be deemed to have been accepted or admitted by the Answering Respondent for want of a specific denial or on ground of non-traverse, save any averment which has been expressly admitted hereinafter.

3. That, CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Water Act, 1974"). It performs the functions under the Water Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as "Air Act, 1981") and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "E(P) Act, 1986"). State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in every State/Union Territory have been constituted under Section 4 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 5 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and are responsible for implementation of the provisions of both the Acts in their respective State/Union Territory.
4. That, the matter is related to the implementation of Nation Clean Air Program (hereinafter referred to as "NCAP") in the city of Pune and lack of procedures by the Respondent No. 1 i.e. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) while implementing the activities as per the approved city action plan under NCAP. Further, allegations are about that the PMC has failed to consult the Institute of Repute (IoR) prior to implementation of technology based interventions/without conducting scientific & technical feasibility studies for mitigation of air pollution in Pune city especially w.r.t. procurement of fog canon machines and installation of mist spray machines.

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS: -

5. That, NCAP was launched in 2019 to improve air quality through collaborative policies and actions at national and sub-national levels. It targets to achieve reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) level up to 40% or achievement of National Standards ($60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) by 2025-26.



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6. That, in respect to address areas with critical air quality challenges, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified 130 Non-Attainment Cities (NAC) where focused interventions are being carried out. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and are being implemented in 130 Non-Attainment Cities (NAC).
 7. That, the city specific clean air action plans target city specific air polluting sources like soil & road dust, vehicles, domestic fuel, MSW burning, construction material and industries with short-term priority action as well as those to be implemented in a medium to longer time frame along with the responsible agencies such as Urban Local Bodies, Traffic Department, Police Department, SPCB/PCC etc. as stakeholders.
 8. That, to ensure efficient execution and monitoring of these city plans, ULBs are required to submit detailed Annual Action Plans, including micro-level activities, on the dashboard PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities). This helps optimize resource use and track implementation progress.
 9. That, in response to air pollution emergencies, all 130 cities have established Emergency Response Systems (ERS), aligned with the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). They have also set up Public Grievance Redressal Systems. These are activated and monitored by municipal authorities as needed.
 10. That, Regular review meetings are conducted at the Central, State, and City levels to ensure effective implementation of NCAP. On the ground, city action plans are operationalized by the ULBs through City Level Implementation Committees (CLIC), headed by Municipal Commissioners or District Magistrates.

PARA-WISE REPLY

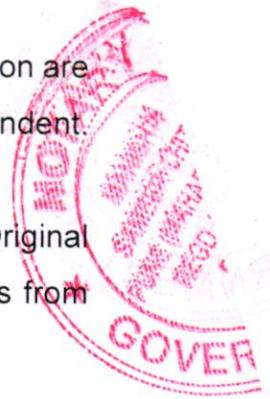
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11. That, the averments made in Para no. 1 & 2 in Original Application are referred to general introduction of Applicant & Respondents, and hence, need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
12. That, the averments made in Para no. 3 in Original Application pertains to Respondent No. 1 i.e. Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and hence, need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
13. That, the averments made in Para no. 4 & 5 in Original Application are related to NCAP, in this regard, it is humbly submitted that, the Government has launched NCAP in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the Country. NCAP targets to achieve reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) level up to 40% from the levels of 2019-20 or achievement of National Standards ($60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) by 2025-26. The objective of the NCAP are given below:
- To ensure stringent implementation of mitigation measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.
 - To augment and evolve effective and proficient ambient air quality monitoring network across the country for ensuring a comprehensive and reliable database.
 - To augment public awareness and capacity-building measures encompassing data dissemination and public outreach programmes for inclusive public participation and for ensuring trained manpower and infrastructure on air pollution.
14. That, the averments made in Para no. 6 & 7 in Original Application are matter of record and need no comments from Answering Respondent.
15. That, the averments made in Para no. 8 in Original Application is factually incorrect. Further, Applicant has also referred to this assertion in the List



of Dates and Events, specifically at Point No. 02 on Page B, stating that "The Respondent No. 2 (Maharashtra Pollution Control Board) appointed Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), a research and development organization of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), as a national agency to help in innovating computer modelling programmes as an air pollution mitigation measure".

16. That, the averments made in Para no. 9, 10 & 11 in Original Application are matter of record and need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
17. That, the averments made in Para no. 12 & 13 in Original Application are pertains to Respondent No. 1 and hence, need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
18. That, the averments made in Para no. 14, 15 & 16 of the Original Application are about the Government of Maharashtra's Environment Department Order dated 18/09/2019 about constitution of City Level Air Quality Monitoring Committee and activities to be performed by the said committee and issues raised in various meetings of the said committee and hence, need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
19. That, the averments made in Para no. 17 in Original Application is related to need of IoRs & matter of record and hence, need no comment from this Answering Respondent No. 03 i.e. CPCB.
20. That, the averments made in Para no. 18 to 28 in Original Application pertains to Respondent No. 1 and need no comments from this Answering Respondent.

21. That, the averments made in Para no. 29 to 34 in Original Application are matter of record and need no comment from this Answering Respondent.
22. That, the averments made in Para no. 35 to 37 & 39 in Original Application pertains to Respondent No. 1 and need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
23. That, the averments made in Para no. 38 in Original Application are about that CPCB not using Low-Cost Sensors (LCS) for regulatory purposes due to concerns over data reliability. It is humbly submitted that LCS typically face challenges related to accuracy, consistency and calibration, which limit their suitability for regulatory compliance monitoring. Globally as well, such sensors are not used for regulatory assessments. CPCB continues to rely on data generated through instruments, following methods prescribed under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), 2009 as per CPCB Notification No. B-29016/20/90/PCI-I dated 18.11.2009.
24. That, the averments made under the heading "Grounds" (A to D & F to J) pertain to Respondent No. 1 and hence, need no comments from this Answering Respondent.
25. That, the averments made under the heading "Grounds" (E), the submissions made by this Answering Respondent at Para 15, as above may kindly be referred and the same is not being reiterated for the sake of brevity.
26. That, the averments made under the heading "Limitation" and Para no. 40 under the heading "Prayers" (Para nos. a to i) are regarding filing of application within limitations of 06 months and various prayers made



before the Hon'ble Tribunal and hence, this Answering Respondent has no comments to offer in this regard.

27. That, in light of the above submissions, this Answering Respondent No. 03 i.e. CPCB shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the present OA.



Pratik D. Bharne

(Scientist 'E' & Regional Director)
Central Pollution Control Board

प्रतिक भारणे / Pratik Bharne
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director
केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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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, 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

प्रतिक भरणे / Pratik Bharme
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director
केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे / Regional Directorate, Pune
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VERIFICATION

Verified at Pune on this day 31st of July, 2025 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.

Pratik B.

DEPONENT – Respondent No.03

प्रतिक भरणे / Pratik Bharne

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

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क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय, पुणे / Regional Directorate, Pune

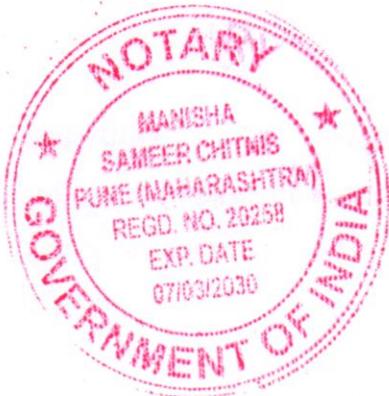
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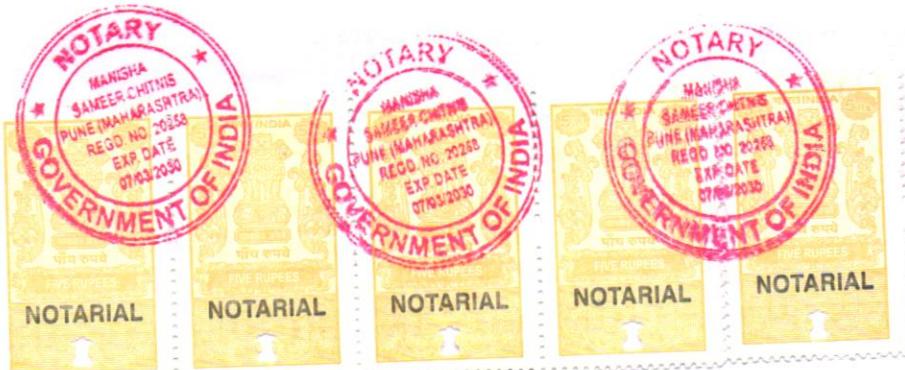
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Sr. No. 110, Hirabai Dhankude Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411 045

COUNSEL for Respondent No. 03



Noted & Registered
At. Sr. No. 467/2025



BEFORE ME

Manisha

MANISHA SAMEER CHITNIS

NOTARY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

3470017025 8

31 JUL 2025

प्रतिक भरणे / Pratik Bharne
क्षेत्रीय निदेशक / Regional Director
केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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