

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1228 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

In Re: News Item titled "Lancet study links alarming mortality rates to poor air quality 12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis" appearing in the Indian Express dated 13.09.2024.

Versus

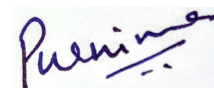
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change & Ors.

... Respondents

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FILED BY:

**PURNIMA KRISHNA**

Advocate for the Respondent No. 5
340, New Lawyers Chambers,
Supreme Court of India,
New Delhi-110001
purnimakrishna10@gmail.com

NEW DELHI
FILED ON: 26.11.2024

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 1228 of 2024

News Item titled "Lancet study links alarming mortality rates to poor air quality 12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis" appearing in the Indian Express dated 13.09.2024.

Vs

1. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Through its Secretary,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi – 110003.
Email: Secy-moef@nic.in.
2. Member Secretary,
Central Pollution Control Board
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar,
Delhi – 110032.
Email: ccb.cpcb@nic.in.
3. Member Secretary,
Gujarat Pollution Control Board
Paryavaran Bhavan, Opp. Bij Nigam,
CHH Road, Sector 10A, Gandhinagar,
Ahmedabad – 382010.
Email: membersecretary@pcb@gmail.com,
ms-gpcb@gujarat.gov.in.
4. Member Secretary,
Karnataka Pollution Control Board
"Parisara Bhavan", #49,
Church Street, Bengaluru – 560001.
Email: ms@kspcb.gov.in.
5. Member Secretary,
Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai – 600032.
Email: grievance@tnpcb.gov.in.
6. Member Secretary,
Delhi Pollution Control Committee,
4th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate,
Delhi – 110006. Email: msdpcc@nic.in.


DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LABS)
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-600 032.

7. Member Secretary,
Telangana State Pollution Control Board,
Paryavaran Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate,
Sanathnagar, Hyderabad – 500018.
Email : ms-tspcb@telangana.gov.in
8. Member Secretary,
West Bengal Pollution Control Board,
Paribesh Bhawan, 10A, Block-I.A, Sector-III,
Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700106.
Email : net.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in.
9. Member Secretary,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Kalpataru Point, 3rd and 4th Floor,
Sion Circle, Mumbai – 400022.
Email : ms@mpcb.gov.in.
10. Member Secretary,
Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board
Phase-III, New Shimla – 171009
Email : mspcb-hp@nic.in.
11. Member Secretary,
Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board,
Building No.TC-12 V, Vibhuti Khand,
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow – 226010.
Email: grievance@uppcb.in, feedback@uppcb.in.
-Respondent

REPORT FILED ON BEHALF OF THE FIFTH RESPONDENT -
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

I, Shankara Subramanian, S/o. Thiru P.T.Arasu, aged about 59 years, having office at No. 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai - 600032, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows:-

I am working as the Deputy Director Laboratory, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai - 600 032 and I am filing this report on behalf of the fifth Respondent, TNPCB and as such I am well acquainted with the facts of the case from the records.


 DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LABS)
 Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
 76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
 Chennai-600 032.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the original application is registered as a Suo motu based on the news item titled "Lancet study links alarming mortality rates to poor air quality 12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis" appearing in 'the Indian Express' dated 13.09.2024.
3. It is submitted that the news item relates to a recent study published in Lancet Planetary Health, which has highlighted the severe impact of poor air quality on mortality rates in 10 major Indian cities. The study reveals that approximately 33,000 deaths annually are linked to air pollution levels that exceed the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. The cities examined includes Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla, and Varanasi. As per the news item, the study's findings show that even cities previously considered less polluted, such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, and Chennai, are significantly affected". It is alleged that this is largely due to emissions from vehicles, industrial activities, and construction dust. Furthermore, it states that children, the elderly, and individuals with pre existing health conditions are particularly susceptible to the adverse effects of air pollution. It is also alleged that exposure to high levels of PM2.5 and other pollutants leads to "male and/or female infertility." Air pollution can lead to diminished sperm quality, hormonal disruptions, and higher miscarriage risk.
4. It is respectfully submitted that, as per direction passed by the Hon'ble NGT, (PB), New Delhi dated 15.10.2024; the following report is submitted by the fifth respondent herein.
5. It is respectfully submitted that the as per one of the 12 strategies to combat country's air pollution crisis suggested by experts, The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board monitors air quality in major cities and industrial clusters at 85 stations in the State of Tamil Nadu, out of which eight ambient air quality monitoring stations are in Chennai as given below.


DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LABS)
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-600 032.

Air Quality Monitoring Stations in Chennai		
Sl. No.	Station location	Land use zone / area
1	Adyar	Residential
2	Anna Nagar	Residential
3	Kilpauk	Commercial intersection) (Traffic
4	Kathivakkam	Industrial
5	Manali	Industrial
6	Nungambakkam	Commercial (Traffic intersection)
7	Thiruvottiyur	Industrial
8	T.Nagar	Commercial (Traffic intersection)

All the above stations are functioning on 24 hours basis, twice a week. The samples collected from Manual Air Quality Monitoring Stations are analysed for the PM10 (particulate matter less than 10 microns), PM2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 microns) and gaseous pollutants such as Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen dioxides (NO₂).

6. It is respectfully submitted that the annual average values recorded from April 2023 to March 2024 reveals that PM10, PM2.5 were well within the annual standards (PM10 =60 µg/m³ & PM2.5 = 40 µg/m³) of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
7. It is respectfully submitted that the WHO recommended 2005 air quality guideline is PM10 =20 µg/m³ & PM2.5 = 10 µg/m³ (annual). The WHO guidelines itself emphasized that the Governments across the world should consider their unique, local conditions before adopting the WHO guideline values as legally based standards.
8. It is respectfully submitted that the State of Tamil Nadu strictly adheres to National Ambient Air Quality Standards, Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi, Notification No.B-29016/20/90PCI-I. dated:18.11.2009 for particulate matter and gaseous pollutants.

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Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-600 032.

9. It is respectfully submitted that the air quality data is uploaded in the ENVIRONMENTAL AIR QUALITY DATA SHEET (EAQDES) CPCB portal every month. The air quality data and the Air Quality Index (AQI) bulletin are uploaded in the TNPCB web site regularly.

Therefore, it is respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) may be pleased to pass such order or further other orders as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of this case and thus render justice.


DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LABS)
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-600 032.

VERIFICATION

I, Shankara Subramanian, S/o. Thiru P.T.Arasu, working as Deputy Director Laboratory, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, Chennai, do hereby verify that the contents of above report are true to the best of my knowledge through records.


DEPUTY DIRECTOR (LABS)
Tamilnadu Pollution Control Board,
76, Mount Salai, Guindy,
Chennai-600 032.