

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

Original Application No. 623 of 2025

News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025

INDEX

S. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1	Short reply by way of Affidavit of Er. Gurkaran Singh, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala in compliance to order dated 03.12.2025 on behalf of respondent no.22 Punjab Pollution Control Board.	1-3
2	Annexure R-22/A A copy of letter no. 6860 dated 13.08.2025 of the Government of Punjab, Department of Finance as conveyed to the Board that the funds of the Board are not to be deposited in the State exchequer.	4
3.	Vakalatnama	5

Date: 19-02-2026

Place: Patiala



**(Er. Gurkaran Singh)
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Water Laboratory, Patiala.**

[Anant Sangal]

Advocate for the PPCB(22)
34, Lower Ground Floor, Babar Lane,
Bengali Market, New Delhi-110001
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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH,
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Original Application No. 623 of 2025

News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025

Short reply by way of Affidavit of Er. Gurkaran Singh, Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Patiala in compliance to order dated 03.12.2025 on behalf of respondent no.22 Punjab Pollution Control Board.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

Respectfully Showeth:

1. That the deponent namely Er. Gurkaran Singh is working as Environmental Engineer in Punjab Pollution Control Board and is posted in the Water Laboratory of the Board at Patiala. The deponent is well conversant with the facts of the case and is competent and authorized to swear and file the present short reply by way of affidavit on behalf of the Punjab Pollution Control Board i.e. respondent no. 22 in compliance to order dated 03.12.2025.
2. That this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to take suo moto cognizance of the above-mentioned case on the basis of the news item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025, which highlights that the funds from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board are being distributed by the State Government for other purposes.
3. That the news item also indicates that this is an indication of a larger problem across the country and attempts are being made to divert funds for development works which have to be taken up by other statutory bodies. This raises concern because on the one hand, the PCBs are not allowed to fill vacancies to perform

their tasks, which have increased multifold over the last few years. On the other hand, their funds are sought for works not covered by the Air Act or Water Act, the two laws that govern the PCBs.

4. That after consideration of the matter, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 03.012.2025 thereby impleading all the State Pollution Control Boards of the country through their chairman as respondents in the case with direction to file their response / reply.
5. That in the facts and circumstances of the case, it is submitted that earlier the State Government of Punjab has sought funds amounting to Rs. 250 crores from the Punjab Pollution Control Board but after the facts were presented by the Board, the matter was discussed and pursuant to detailed deliberations, it was decided by the Government that the funds amounting to Rs. 250 Crores lying with the Punjab Pollution Control Board shall not be deposited in the State exchequer. In this regard, letter no. 6860 dated 13.08.2025 of the Government of Punjab, Department of Finance as conveyed to the Board is enclosed as **Annexure R-22/A**. It is relevant to mention here that a case in this regard in Original Application no. 415 of 2025 titled as Public Action Committee v/s State of Punjab and other is also pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal in which the Board has already filed its reply. The case in Original Application no. 415 of 2025 is now listed for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 28.04.2026.
6. That further it is submitted that the Punjab Pollution Control Board has also filled almost all posts of direct recruitment lying vacant in various cadres of the Board except 43 vacancies which have not been filled due to certain reasons. It is relevant to mention here that out of the 43 vacancies, 33 vacancies have been filled through outsource basis and one post has been filled on regular basis. Only 09 posts are required to be filled, which will be filled in due course of time. It is pertinent to mention here that a case in Original Application no. 693 of 2023 in Re: News item titled "Pollution control boards are the weak link" appearing in Deccan Herald dated 24.10.2023 is also pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal in which the Punjab Pollution Control Board has filed status report by way of affidavit of the deponent dated 07.01.2026. The case in Original Application no. 693 of 2023 is now listed for hearing before this Hon'ble Tribunal on 10.04.2026.

7. That it is pertinent to mention here that neither the State Government is restraining the Punjab Pollution Control Board from filling up the vacant posts in the establishment of the Punjab Pollution Control Board nor the Government is seeking the funds from the Punjab Pollution Control Board for other purposes.
8. That the deponent may kindly be allowed to place on record, the present short reply on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board i.e. respondent no.22 in compliance to order dated 03.12.2025.

Deponent



Date: 19-02-2026

Place: Patiala

**(Er. Gurkaran Singh)
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Water Laboratory, Patiala.**

Verification

Verified that the contents of paragraphs 1 to 8 of the above status report by way of affidavit of the deponent are true and correct as derived from the official record. No part of the above status report is false and nothing material has been kept concealed therein.

Deponent



Date: 19-02-2026

Place: Patiala

**(Er. Gurkaran Singh)
Environmental Engineer
Punjab Pollution Control Board
Water Laboratory, Patiala.**

No. T&A(DD)/ACFA-IT/2025/ C.P.C.

Government of Punjab, Department of Finance
(Treasuries & Accounts),
Vit-te-Yojna Bhawan, Plot No.2B,
Sec-33-A, Chandigarh.
(email: ffms.punjab@punjab.gov.in)

To

The Chairman,
Punjab Pollution Control Board,
Patiala.

Chandigarh, dated: 13/08/2025

Subject: Regarding Proceedings of the meeting under the chairmanship of worthy Chief Secretary dated 07.08.2025.

Kindly refer to this office letter No. 6756 dated 07.08.2025 on the subject cited above.

The matter regarding deposit of unutilized accumulated non NGT funds amounting to ₹250.00 Cr lying with PPCB has been reconsider at the level of the higher authority. Pursuant to detailed deliberations, it has been decided that the said amount shall not be deposited into the State exchequer, pl.

Deputy Director,
Treasury & Accounts,
Punjab, Chandigarh.

Encls.No. 02/1-11

dated: 13/08/2025

A copy of the above is forwarded to the following for information.

pl:-

- 1 Member, Punjab Development Commission.
- 2 Administrative Secretary, Science Technology & Environment, Punjab, Chandigarh.
- 3 OSD/Worthy Chief Secretary, Punjab.
- 4 DD Incharge, Science Technology & Environment, Punjab, Chandigarh.
- 5 P/Additional Chief Secretary, Finance.
- 6 P/Assistant Director, Treasuries & Accounts, Punjab.

Deputy Director,
Treasury & Accounts,
Punjab, Chandigarh.



**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 623/2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025

VAKALATNAMA

KNOW ALL to whom these presents shall come that I, (PPCB), **Respondent No22 Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala, 147001, Punjab, India** herein the captioned matter, hereby appoint **Anant Sangal** ("Advocate") having their office at # **34, Lower Ground Floor, Babar Lane, Bengali Market, New Delhi:-110001, Email ID:- a.anantsangal.a@gmail.com, Mobile No. +91 9911453576**; to be my Advocates in the above noted case and authorize them:

To act, appear and plead in the above-noted case before this Court/Tribunal or before any other Court/Tribunal, in which the same may be tried or heard and also in the Appellate Court including the High Court subject to payment of fees separately for each court by me. To sign, file, verify and present pleadings, appeals, cross-objections or petitions for executions review, revision, withdraw, compromise or other petitions or affidavits or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the execution of the said case in all its stages subject to payment of fees for each stage. To file and take back documents, to admit and/or deny the documents of opposite party. Submit to arbitration any differences or disputes that may arise touching or in any manner relating to the said case. To take execution proceedings. To deposit, draw and receive moneys, cheque, cash and grant receipts thereof and to do all other acts and things which may be necessary to be done for the progress and in the course of the prosecution of the said case. To appoint and instruct other Legal practitioner or person, authorizing him to exercise the power and authority hereby conferred upon the Advocates whatever he may think fit to do so and sign the power of attorney; And I the undersigned do hereby agree to ratify and confirm all acts done by the Advocates or their substitute in the matter as my own acts, as if done by me to all intents and purposes.

And I undersigned undertake that I or my duly authorized agent would appear in court on all hearings and will inform the Advocates for appearance when the case is called. And I undersigned do hereby agree not to hold the advocate or his substitute responsible for the result of the said case. And I the undersigned do hereby agree that in the event of the whole or part of the fee agreed by me to be paid to the advocates remaining unpaid they shall be entitled to withdraw from the prosecution of the said case until the same is paid up. The fee settled is only for the above case and above court. I hereby agree that once the fee is paid, I will not be entitled for the refund of the same in any case whatsoever. And I the undersigned do hereby agree that I shall not claim any compensation, nor the Advocate/s shall be liable for any compensation if he/she fails to appear in the Court or fails to conduct or withdraw from the case due to non-payment of fee as per settlement or for reason of any request/ call given by Bar Association/s or Council/s.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we do hereunto set our hand to these presents the contents of which have been understood by us on this 19 day of Feb ' 2026.

Accepted, identified, and satisfied subject to the terms of fee.

I Identify the Signature/Thumb Impression of Below Mentioned Person, Signed in My Presence.


[ANANT SANGAL]
ADVOCATES/ ENROLLMENT NO. UP02467/22

ADVOCATES


CLIENT