Mentioning Matter (Pune Bench)

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

[THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING (WITH HYBRID OPTION)]

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.189 OF 2026 (WZ)
I.A. NO.424 OF 2026 (WZ)

Rajesh Madhukar Pandit & Ors.

.....Applicant

Versus

State of Maharashtra & Ors.

....Respondents

Date of hearing: 16.10.2026

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. SUJIT KUMAR BAJPAYEE, EXPERT MEMBER

Applicant : Mr. Rahul Chaudhary, Advocate

ORDER

1. Learned counsel for the applicant has filed this Original Application with the prayer that a direction be issued to the respondents/Government Authorities to inspect and sample all electroplating, chrome-plating, metal-finishing and allied units in Ambad MIDC and Satpur MIDC to trace the sources of the chromium contamination; direction be issued to stop the functioning of the defaulting industries to ensure that no discharge of effluents takes place from the industries; further a direction be issued that no part of the Nandani –Godavari stretches or associated drain be opened for pilgrim bathing or abstraction for drinking water unless it is certified safe as per the IS standards; etc.

2. The submission made by the learned counsel for the applicant is that a test report of water submitted by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board dated 08.10.2026 of the site in question, result of which is indicated at Page No.38 of the paper book, shows that it contained Chromium-45.0 PPM while the standard prescribed is 0.05 PPM as is

evident from the table of the parameters concerning the toxic substances given at Page No.47 of the paper book. Therefore, it is found to be much higher.

3. Further, he has drawn our attention to the report named “Yellow groundwater in Nashik contains 1,000 times the acceptable chromium level” dated 13.10.2026. Based on these evidences it is submitted that the MPCB has not taken adequate action in the case in hand.

4. The applicant’s counsel candidly admitted that he is unaware as to which are the industries which are causing this pollution and therefore, he has requested for a direction to be issued to the MPCB to find out such industries. A perusal of the report which is annexed at Page No.71 of the paper book, which is a newspaper report, would indicate that the MPCB is already taking action in this matter but we fail to understand as to what action has been taken by the MPCB apart from issuing closure notices to 17 industrial units in the region. Therefore, at the outset we direct the Registry to issue notice to the Respondent No.5-MPCB and Respondent No.8-District Collector first, directing them to disclose the action taken at their end in this matter within four weeks.

5. Learned counsel for the applicant has made one request that potable water be made available in the area in question by the District Collector. We direct the same.

6. Put up this matter for further consideration on 02.12.2026.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. Sujit Kumar Bajpayee, EM

October 16, 2026
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.189 OF 2026 (WZ)
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