

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE**

[Through Physical Hearing (with Hybrid Option)]

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.31 OF 2025 (WZ)

Rishan Sarode & Ors.

... **Applicants**

Versus

The PMC, through Municipal Commissioner & Ors.

... **Respondents**

Date of Hearing : 06.03.2025

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. VIJAY KULKARNI, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicants : Mr. Asim Sarode, Advocate along with Ms. Shriya Awale,
Advocate

ORDER

1. This application has been filed by the law students with the prayers that respondent No.1 – Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and respondent No.2 – Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) be directed to ensure the supply of safe and clean drinking water to all areas affected by Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS) disease and conduct periodic water quality monitoring the said disease being mainly a water-borne disease; respondent No.3 – District Collector, Pune, respondent No.4 – MPCB and respondent No. 6 – Water Supply and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Maharashtra be directed to immediately identify and eliminate all sources of water contamination in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad to prevent further spreading of said disease; respondent No. 5 – Public Health Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, respondent No. 7 – Indian Council of Medical Research and respondent No.9 – Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of Maharashtra be directed to provide immediate medical aid, treatment and financial assistance to those who are affected by GBS disease; respondent Nos.1 and 2 be directed to assess the water quality in all wells under their jurisdiction and eliminate contamination therein and restore them through de-

contamination, sealing and sustainable management; respondent authorities be held accountable under the “Polluter Pays” principle and impose penalty for negligence leading to the spread of the disease in question.

2. It is alleged by the applicants in this application that due to the spreading of GBS disease in Pune city, total 166 cases of this disease are diagnosed. The outbreak of this disease is attributed to contamination of drinking water and serious urgency is reflected as five persons have succumbed, 21 patients are still on ventilator and 61 patients are in ICU while 52 persons have been discharged from the hospital. In support of this, learned counsel for the applicants has drawn our attention to the report of contamination of water, annexed at pages 93 to 98 of the paper-book, which shows that the samples of water taken at Kirkitwadi, Nanded, Dhayari, etc. areas were found to contain coliform bacteria and E-coli, which were on higher side. Based on this, it is prayed that this application should be admitted.

3. Considering the averments in the application and the prima facie evidence placed on record, we find that the question of adverse impact on environment is raised in this application and hence, we admit the Original Application and direct the Registry to issue notice at present to respondent No.1 – PMC and respondent No.2 – PCMC, returnable within four weeks. It is expected of respondent Nos.1 and 2 to disclose as to whether averments made in this application are correct and what action has been taken at their end to take care of this disease of GBS, by filing an affidavit in that regard.

4. Applicants are directed to provide copies of the Original Application and annexures thereto to respondent Nos.1 and 2 within a week.

5. The applicants are also directed to take necessary steps for service of notice upon respondent Nos.1 and 2 by both ways and also through available e-mail.

6. Put up this matter for next consideration on 16.04.2025.

Dinesh Kumar Singh, JM

Dr. Vijay Kulkarni, EM

March 06, 2025
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npj