

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP-266-PIL-2024

Date of decision : 09.12.2024

Manan Dhingra

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present: Mr. Davinder Singh, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Salil Sabhlok, Senior DAG, Punjab.

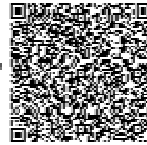
Mr. Abhilaksh Gaind, Advocate, and
Mr. Rakesh Roy, Advocate (through video conferencing),
for respondent No.2 – PPCB.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India, with
Mr. Ashish Rawal, Senior Panel Counsel, UOI,
for respondent No.5.

SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

1. The petitioner before this Court, who is a practicing lawyer at Ludhiana and claims himself to be a public spirited person, prays for the following reliefs :-

“(i) For issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus or for issuing any appropriate writ/director to direct the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) (respondent No.2), Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) (respondent No.3), and Ludhiana Municipal



Corporation (respondent No.4) to strictly enforce the PPCB orders issued in September, 2024 to halt all untreated effluent discharge into Buddha Nullah and submit compliance reports to this Hon'ble Court, causing a severe health care deficit.

- (ii) For issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus or for issuing any appropriate writ/direction to form an expert committee, comprising representatives from CPCB, PPCB, independent environmental scientists, and local health officials. This Committee should conduct a comprehensive assessment of Buddha Nullah's pollution levels and health impact, provide action plans, and submit quarterly progress reports to this Hon'ble Court.*
- (iii) For issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus or for issuing any appropriate writ/direction mandate to the immediate upgrade of Jamalpur and Balloke (Sewerage Treatment Plants) STP's and all common effluent treatment plants CETP's linked to Buddha Nullah, with a deadline to meet designed capacities and pollution standards. Additionally, the Court may consider directing the Ludhiana Municipal Corporation to establish new steps if existing facilities cannot be adequately expanded.*
- (iv) For issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus or for issuing any appropriate writ/direction order for the temporary suspension of operations for industries contributing to pollution until they comply with effluent treatment standards. Additionally, levy fines on repeated offenders, and allocate these funds to public health initiatives for affected residents.*
- (v) For issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus or for issuing any appropriate writ/direction direct the*



State of Punjab to create a cancer relief fund for medical assistance to cancer patients affected by pollution in Buddha Nullah. In parallel, mandate PPCB and Municipal Corporatoin to run awareness programs to educate the public on the health risks of polluted water and promote environmental responsibility among industries.

(v) For issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to decide the representation dated 30.09.2020 (Annexure P-1) in a time bound and fair manner.”

2. It is not disputed at the Bar that issue of similar nature, if not identical, is pending before National Green Tribunal in the shape of Appeal No. 40/2024, titled “Punjab Dyres Association Vs. Punjab Pollution Control Board.” Therefore, to avoid any conflicting view, it would be appropriate that the petitioner is relegated to the National Green Tribunal for raising his grievance(s), as raised herein.

3. With the aforesaid liberty, this petition stands disposed of, without commenting upon merits of the case.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE

December 09, 2024
narotam

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No