

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING WITH HYBRID MODE)**

Original Application No.20/2022/EZ

Suprova Prasad	Versus	Applicant(s)
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change & Ors.		Respondent(s)

With

Original Application No.33/2024/EZ

Subhas Datta	Versus	Applicant(s)
State of West Bengal & Ors.		Respondent(s)

With

Original Application No.40/2024/EZ

Ankur Sharma	Versus	Applicant(s)
State of West Bengal & Ors.		Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 05.08.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B. AMIT STHALEKAR, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. ARUN KUMAR VERMA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s) : Ms. Paushali Banerjee, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Ashok Prasad, Adv. for R-2,8 & 13,
Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Adv. for WBPCB,
Mr. Surendra Kumar, Adv. for R-5,
Ms. Susmita Chatterjee, Adv. for R-6 (in Virtual Mode),
Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, Adv. (in Virtual Mode) a/w
Mr. Sibojyoti Chakraborty, Adv. for State,
Mr. Sibojyoti Chakraborty, Adv. for UD&MA,
Ms. Amrita Pandey, Adv. for R-9 (in Virtual Mode),
Ms. Amrita Pandey, Adv. for R-11&12 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Abhrajit Roy Chowdhury, Adv. for R-14 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Soumyajit Bhatta, Adv. for R-15 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Ankan Das, Adv. for R-17 (in Virtual Mode)

For Applicant(s) : None

(in OA No.33/2024/EZ)

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, Adv. a/w
Mr. Sudip Kr. Dutta, Adv. for R-1,4,5 & 9 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Ashok Prasad, Adv. for R-2,
Mr. Rajib Ray, Adv. for R-3 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Dipanjan Ghosh, Adv. for R-6,
Mr. Sibojyoti Chakraborty, Adv. for R-7,
Ms. Amrita Pandey, Adv. for R-8 (in Virtual Mode)

For Applicant(s) : Mr. Ankur Sharma, in person
(in OA No.40/2024/EZ)

For Respondent(s) : Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, Adv. a/w
Mr. Rajib Ray, Adv. for R-1,4,5 & 8 (in Virtual Mode),
Ms. Rashmi Singhee, Adv. for R-2 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Surendra Kumar, Adv. for R-3,
Mr. Sibojyoti Chakraborty, Adv. for R-6,
Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey, Adv. for R-7 (in Virtual Mode),
Ms. Amrita Pandey, Adv. for R-9 (in Virtual Mode),
Mr. Ashok Prasad, Adv. for R-10

ORDER

1. Ms. Paushali Banerjee, learned Counsel is present on behalf of the Applicant.
2. Ms. Madhumita Bhattacharjee, learned Counsel appearing (in Virtual Mode) on behalf of the State Respondents, Government of West Bengal informs that Sl. No.10, 11 and 14 involve identical question since they relate to the cleaning of Ganga Ghat in West Bengal. Learned Counsel states that she has received instructions only two days back. She prays for four weeks time for filing counter affidavit on behalf of the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal.
3. Time as prayed is granted. Let her file counter affidavit within four weeks.
4. Ms. Paushali Banerjee, learned Counsel for the Applicant informs that she has no instructions from her client but since the matter involves serious environmental issues regarding cleaning of the Ganga Ghats in West Bengal, the same may be treated as a PIL.
5. We order accordingly.
6. In the affidavit dated 05.10.2023, the Applicant has also raised the issue that in order to minimize plastic waste on the ghats as well as littering river Ganga at least 100 meters area around the ghats should be declared Plastic Free Zone and the use of plastic should

be banned completely at all the ghats since plastic is a toxic material and is extremely harmful for the riverine ecology. The Chief Secretary of Government of West Bengal while filing his affidavit shall consider this aspect of the matter also.

7. We find that the Respondent No.13, The Colonel, Headquarter Bengal Sub Area has not filed its affidavit.
8. Parties shall exchange copies of their affidavits and other documents among themselves at least one week before the next date fixed.

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9. Mr. Subhas Datta, the Applicant has sought an adjournment on grounds of personal difficulty.
10. We, accordingly, adjourn the matter.
11. Affidavit dated 02.08.2024 has been filed on behalf of the Respondent No.6, West Bengal Pollution Control Board; the same is taken on record.

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12. Mr. Ankur Sharma, the Applicant is present in person.
13. Affidavit dated 30.07.2024 has been filed on behalf of the Respondent No.9, Commissioner of the Howrah Municipal Corporation; the same is taken on record.
14. Affidavit dated 02.08.2024 has been filed on behalf of the Respondent No.10, Commissioner Deputy Director, National Mission for Clean Ganga; the same is taken on record.
15. **All these cases shall be listed together on the same date.**

16. **List on 25.09.2024.**

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B. Amit Sthalekar, JM

August 05, 2024,
Original Application No.20/2022/EZ
With
Original Application No.33/2024/EZ
With
Original Application No.40/2024/EZ
SKB

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Dr. Arun Kumar Verma, EM