



NO. 262/PA/DG/EPA/2025
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NATIONAL HOCKEY STADIUM FERROZEPUR
ROAD, LAHORE
04/06/2025



EXECUTIVE ORDER

Subject: **ORDER U/S 5(4) OF THE PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT, 1997, FOR FILING OF COMPLAINTS BEFORE THE LEARNED PUNJAB ENVIRONMENTAL TRIBUNAL**

WHEREAS, the learned Punjab Environmental Tribunal is properly functional and is adjudicating upon, either complaints or appeals filed in it, under section 21 or 22 of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act-1997;

2. **AND WHEREAS**, Section 21(3)(a) of the Punjab Environmental Protection Act-1997, provides an avenue of filing complaint by the Punjab Environmental Protection Agency before Punjab Environmental Tribunal against the person who violates the provisions of the Act *ibid*;

3. **AND WHEREAS**, it is necessary that any complaint filed under the aforementioned provision must be complete in all respects and supported by tangible and admissible evidence, in order to ensure effective prosecution and legal sustainability;

4. **AND WHEREAS**, multiple instances have come into notice of the undersigned that the complaints directly filed by the District officers (Environment), before the learned Punjab Environmental Tribunal, lack tangible / admissible evidence, resulting in weak prosecution. The primary cause of this scenario is the lack of availability of legal support at district level;

5. **AND WHEREAS**, in order to streamline the affairs of environmental prosecution cases filed by the Environmental Protection Agency, it is imperative that the District Officers should submit complaints under section 21(3)(a) of the Act *ibid*, before the Learned Punjab Environmental Tribunal through the designated Assistant Director (Legal), EPA Punjab, so that legal shortcomings may be addressed;

6. **AND WHEREAS**, Section 5(4) of the Act *ibid* provides that the powers and functions of the Provincial Agency shall be exercised and performed by the Director General;

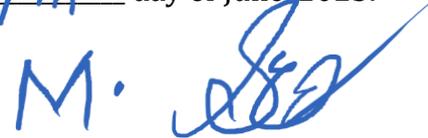
7. **NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Imran Hamid Sheikh, Director General, EPA Punjab, do hereby order that henceforth no District Officer (Environment) shall submit any complaint u/s 21(3)(a) of the Act *ibid*, before the learned Punjab Environmental

Tribunal unless the said complaint is scrutinized by the designated Assistant Director (Legal), duly authorized by the undersigned for the said purpose.

8. This order shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force unless modified or withdrawn.

9. Any contravention against this order shall attract disciplinary proceedings against the delinquent officer under PEEDA Act, 2006.

Issued under my hand & seal on this 4th day of June, 2025.



DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
PUNJAB

Copy forwarded for information & necessary action to:

- i. The Secretary, Environment Protection and Climate Change Department, Punjab.
- ii. The Additional Director General (Ops & Imp), EPA Punjab.
- iii. All the Directors, EPA Punjab.
- iv. Law Officer, Punjab Environmental Tribunal.
- v. The Deputy Director (Strategy and Analysis Wing), EPA HQs, Lahore.
- vi. All Deputy Director (Field) / Assistant Director (Field), EPA Punjab for compliance and necessary action.
- vii. Mr. M. Fahad, Assistant Director (Legal) / Designated Officer.
- viii. PA to Director General EPA Punjab.