

The National Green Tribunal, Pune - Up and Running

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The National Green Tribunal (NGT) with its Principal bench at New Delhi has been established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal rights relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property, and other matters connected or incidental thereto.

The Central Government has now constituted the Western Zone Bench of the NGT at Pune with jurisdiction in the areas/territories of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Goa, Daman, Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. All cases under the jurisdiction of Western Zone of National Green Tribunal in Delhi will stand transferred to the Western Zone Bench at Pune, with effect from 25 August 2013. Justice V. R Kingaonkar (Retd.) has been appointed as the judicial member and Hon'ble Dr. Ajay Deshpande as the expert member of the Bench.

Hariani & Co. offices in Mumbai, Pune and Goa are already handling environmental law matters, both in the NGT as also in Writ Courts.

Under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 under which the Tribunal is established, any person adversely affected by environmental damage or the Government or authority may file an application for grant of relief or compensation or settlement of disputes to the NGT.

The power to provide for relief and compensation to the victims of pollution and other environmental damage, including accidents occurring while handling any hazardous substance, for restitution of property damaged and restitution of environment is also within the scope of the NGT. Further, the NGT also has the power to try appeals against certain orders or decisions passed under certain enactments with respect to air, water, land pollution control and other allied laws.

NGT provides for a strict deterrent penalty for non-compliance of an order. In case of companies, the NGT has a far stricter approach with vicarious liability also being provided for.

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control, and other allied laws such as in respect of forest conservation etc. The establishment of the NGT in Pune has effectively decentralized control and entailed that significant environment decisions will be taken locally rather than having to go to New Delhi. Convenient and speedy justice in respect of environmental issues will be the result

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