

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1118/2024

News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in The Hindu dated 19.08.2024

Date of hearing: 30.08.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in The Hindu dated 19.08.2024.

2. The news item relates to the tardiness of river-cleaning projects being executed in various States under the National Clean Ganga Mission. As per the article, a variety of projects have been commissioned since 2015 as a part of the Namami Gange mission, the costliest and the most critical in the development of sewage-management infrastructure. In total, nearly ₹37,550 crore have been sanctioned under various Namami Gange projects but only ₹18,033 crore have been spent as of June 2024. Sewage infrastructure projects alone account for ₹15,039 crores of the latter amount. The article alleges that as observed by the director general of NMCG, the pace of expenditure so far is extremely slow. The news item mentions that Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of projects and the authorities there upon being questioned about the slow pace of expenditure responded that that ₹15.16 crores have been spent on six projects in Jaunpur, Kasganj, Varanasi, Bareilly, Salori and Agra and that Payment amounting to ₹25 crore are still under process.

3. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of environmental norms.

4. The power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

5. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

- (1). Central Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi- 110032.
- (2). Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, through its Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
- (3). National Mission for Clean Ganga, through its Director General, NMCG, I Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi- 110002.
- (4). Ministry of Jal Shakti, through its Secretary, 6th Floor Cabin, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110001.

6. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

7. List on 11.12.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. Afroz Ahamd, EM

August 30, 2024
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