

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 633/2024

News Item titled "*The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies*"
appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

INDEX

S.No	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Additional Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.6/ National Wetlands Committee	1-5
2.	Annexure/R6/1: Ministry's letter dated 05.09.2024	6
3.	Annexure/R6/2: Order dated 17.09.2024	7-9
4.	Annexure/R6/3: Reminder Letters dated 23.09.2024 & 04.12.2024	10-11
5.	Annexure/R6/4: Delhi Wetland Authority's Status Report dated 12.12.2024	12-32
6.	Annexure/R6/5: Department of Environment, Delhi's letter dated 30.10.2024	33-39

PLACE: NEW DELHI

DATE: 18.12.2024



NAME OF THE COUNSEL

ROHAN GUPTA
(Advocate)
242-243, Vardhman Premium Mall,
Deepali Pitampura, Delhi-110034
Mob. No.: 9810847997, 9811531460
Email Id: ROHAN.GUPTA@ENLEX.CO.IN

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

Original Application No. 633/2024

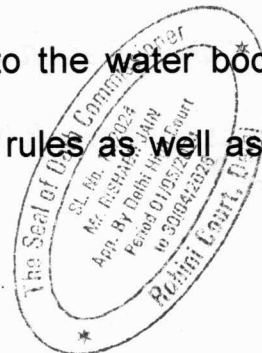
News Item titled "*The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies*" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

Additional Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, represented through National Wetlands Committee

I, Pankaj Verma, s/o Shri Ram Sagar Verma, presently working as Scientist-'E', at the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor-Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

1. That, I am, the above-named Deponent, authorized and well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and thus competent to swear the present affidavit.
2. It is humbly submitted that an affidavit dated 12.09.2024 was filed by the answering respondent in the present matter, inter-alia, providing information available with respect to the water bodies/ wetlands in Delhi as per the SAC Atlas, 2021 and informing that a letter dated 05.09.2024 has been sent to Delhi State Wetlands Authority to provide the factual report with respect to the water bodies/wetlands of Delhi including the status of wetlands rules as well as brief documents with

Pankaj Verma



10. List on 07.01.2025 for further consideration.”

A copy of order dated 17.09.2024 is annexed as **Annexure/R6/2**.

4. It is humbly submitted that, in furtherance of the aforesaid letter dated 05.09.2024, the reminder letters dated 23.09.2024 and 04.12.2024 were sent to the Delhi State Wetland Authority. The copies of said letters dated 23.09.2024 and 04.12.2024 are annexed as **Annexure/R6/3**.
5. That in response to the Ministry's letter dated 05.09.2024, the Wetland Authority of Delhi has sent a status report dated 12.12.2024 that has been filed before this Hon'ble Tribunal in **OA No. 1117/2024** titled as **NEWS ITEM TITLED "FROM OASIS TO FORSAKEN WHERE DID" APPEARING IN THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DATED 16.08.2024 vs. CPCB & Ors**, stating that the management and restoration of 1,367 water bodies in Delhi, under various land-owning agencies, are being coordinated with a focus on rejuvenating 631 bodies in the first phase, with a deadline of December 31, 2024, for completion, including encroachment removal and cleaning through de-silting and invasive species removal, as per the directions of the Delhi High Court and

Handwritten signature



respect to the identified water bodies in Delhi. A copy of the said letter dated 05.09.2024 is annexed as **Annexure/R6/1**.

3. That the aforesaid affidavit was taken on record on 17.09.2024 and the court observed that the response filed on behalf of the answering respondent was substantially deficient in terms of the information sought from the state authorities and directed the answering respondent to submit the response at least one week before the next date of hearing. The operative portion of the aforesaid order dated 17.09.2024 is reproduced hereunder:

"7. Response filed on behalf of Respondent No. 6-National Wetland Committee is also materially deficient as before filing of the reply relevant information has not been obtained despite sufficient time having been granted. An excuse has been put forward that a letter dated 05.09.2024 was sent to Delhi State Wetlands Authority which has not been replied to by the same so far.

8. Learned Counsel for Respondent No. 6 seeks four weeks time to file further response.

9. Further Action Taken Reports/Responses be filed by Respondents No.3, 5 and 6 at least one week before the date of hearing fixed.

Pauley Verma



Wetland Authority of Delhi. The detailed status report is annexed here as **Annexure/R6/4**.

6. That, as an initiative to conserve and protect wetlands in Delhi, the Department of Environment, Government of N.C.T of Delhi vide order dated 30.10.2024 has issued directions to all the concerned authorities to support efficient conservation and management of wetlands in consonance with **Clause (n) of Sub-rule (4) of Rule 5** of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017. A copy of the said letter dated 30.10.2024 is annexed as **Annexure/R6/5**.
7. In view of the aforesaid, the Hon'ble tribunal may pass any order(s) as it deems fit and decide the present application.



DEPONENT

Paulraj Verma

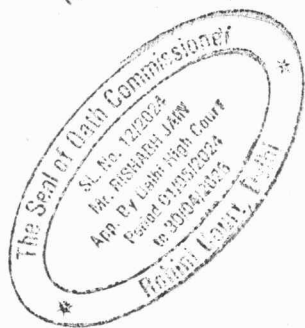
VERIFICATION

9 DEC 2024

Verified at **New Delhi** on **December, 2024**, that the contents of Paragraphs of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.

Vaibhav

I identify the Deponent who has signed in my Presence.



CERTIFIED THAT THE DEPONENT
Shri/Smt./Km. Pankaj Verma
S/o W/o Dia. Neher
R/o SS
Ident. has Neher
Del. that Neher
been read Neher
correct to his knowledge. Neher
Oath Commissioner Delhi

9 DEC 2024

DEPONENT

Pankaj Verma
(पंकज वर्मा)

(PANKAJ VERMA)
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

File No. W/19/2024-WTL
Government of India
Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jorbagh Road,
New Delhi-110003
Dated: 05.09.2024

To
The Member Secretary,
Wetland Authority of Delhi,
Department of Environment,
Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi,
6th Level, C-Wing,
Delhi Secretariat, I P Estate,
New Delhi-110002

Sub: OA No. 633/2024, registered as Suo Moto on the basis of News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

Sir,

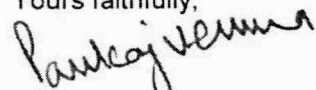
This has reference to order dated 29.05.2024 passed by the Hon'ble NGT-Delhi (PB) in OA no. 633/2024, registered as Suo Moto on the basis of News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024, before the Hon'ble NGT-Delhi (PB). (A copy of order dated 29.05.2024 is enclosed).

2. Vide order dated 29.05.2024, the Delhi State Wetlands Authority and The Wetlands Authority of India, i.e., National Wetlands Committee (NWC) have been arrayed as Respondent No. 1 and 6 respectively. The notice to all the respondents was issued on 20.07.2024 (Copy of notice dated 20.07.2024 is enclosed).

3. The Respondent No. 6, i.e., Wetlands Authority of India was directed to provide the Comprehensive report in respect of number and status of wetland/water bodies in Delhi before the next date of hearing. The next dated of hearing is on 17.09.2024.

4. In view of the above, it is requested to provide the factual status report with respect to the water bodies/wetlands of Delhi including brief documents with respect to the identified water bodies in Delhi within a **week's time**.

Enc. as above.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Verma)
Addl. Dir/Scientist 'E'

Item No. 06

Court No. 3

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

Original Application No. 633/2024

News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies"
appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024

Date of hearing: 17.09.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Respondent: Ms. Jyoti Mendiratta & Ms. Ananya Basudha, Advs. for R - 1 & 5
(Through VC).
Ms. Sakshi Popli, Adv. for DPCC (Through VC).
Mr. Rohan Gupta, Adv. for R - 6.
Ms. Soni Singh, Adv. for CPCB.
Mr. Gigi. C. George, Adv. for Ministry of Jal Shakti.

ORDER

1. As per office report, Respondent No. 7-Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has also been served but none has appeared for Respondent No. 7-DDA and no response has been filed on its behalf.
2. Let notice be issued again to Respondent No. 7-DDA requiring it to ensure filing of its response by way of an affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing and also its representation before this Tribunal on the date of hearing fixed.
3. Vide order dated 29.05.2024, Wetland Authority of India, through its Chairman, Wetlands Division, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110003 India was impleaded as Respondent No. 6 but as per response filed by Mr. Pankaj Verma, Scientist-E, MoEF&CC on behalf of National Wetland Committee, there is no Wetland Authority of India and National Wetlands Committee has been constituted at the central level. Accordingly, Respondent No. 6-Wetland Authority of India

through its Chairman, Wetlands Division, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110003 is substituted by the National Wetlands Committee, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi. The Registry is directed to make appropriate amendment in the Memo of Parties.

4. Responses have been filed by Respondents No. 3, 5 and 6 and we have gone through the same.

5. In its response, Respondent No. 3-Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has not mentioned about actions required to be taken by DPCC and learned Counsel for Respondent No. 3 seeks time to take instructions and file further response.

6. In its response Respondent No. 5 has not provided information in respect of all notified and claimed/alleged water bodies including the water spread area as per the revenue records and the list prepared. Respondent No. 5 is directed to make appropriate survey of the water bodies that are listed in the revenue map and provide relevant information to the concerned authorities. Thereafter file further action taken report at least one week before the next date of hearing.

7. Response filed on behalf of Respondent No. 6-National Wetland Committee is also materially deficient as before filing of the reply relevant information has not been obtained despite sufficient time having been granted. An excuse has been put forward that a letter dated 05.09.2024 was sent to Delhi State Wetlands Authority which has not been replied to by the same so far.

8. Learned Counsel for Respondent No. 6 seeks four weeks time to file further response.

9. Further Action Taken Reports/Responses be filed by Respondents No.3, 5 and 6 at least one week before the date of hearing fixed.

10. List on 07.01.2025 for further consideration.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

September 17, 2024
Original Application No. 633/2024
dv

Reminder-1
Urgent

File No. W/19/2024-WTL
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
JorBagh Road, New Delhi-110003
Date: 23.09.2024

To
The Member Secretary
Delhi State Wetlands Authority,
Department of Environment,
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi,
6th Level, C-Wing,
Delhi Secretariat, I P Estate,
New Delhi 110002

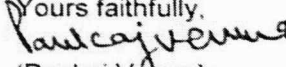
Sub: OA No. 633/2024, registered as Suo Moto on the basis of News Item titled "*The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies*" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024, before Hon'ble NGT-Principal Bench, New Delhi .

Sir,

This has reference to the ministry's earlier letter dated 05.09.2024, enclosing the order dated 29.05.2024 passed by the Hon'ble NGT-Principal Bench, New Delhi, wherein the Hon'ble tribunal directed all the respondents to file an affidavit in the defined timeframe.

In view of the aforesaid, the ministry vide its aforementioned letter has requested the factual report with respect to the water bodies/wetlands of Delhi including brief documents with respect to the identified water bodies in Delhi. The copies of orders dated 29.05.2024 and 17.09.2024 as well as ministry's letter dated 05.09.2024 are enclosed.

The factual report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to provide the report urgently in the present matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Verma)

Addl. Director/Scientist-E

Encl. as above.

Reminder-2
Urgent

File No. W/19/2024-WTL
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India
(Wetlands Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor-Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003
Date: 04.12.2024

To
The Member Secretary
Delhi State Wetlands Authority,
Department of Environment,
Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi,
6th Level, C-Wing,
Delhi Secretariat, I P Estate,
New Delhi 110002

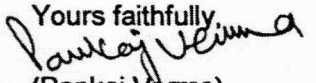
Sub: OA No. 633/2024, registered as Suo Moto on the basis of News Item titled "*The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies*" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024, before Hon'ble NGT-Principal Bench, New Delhi .

Sir,

This has reference to the letter dated 05.09.2024 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and reminder letter dated 23.09.2024, enclosing the order dated 29.05.2024 passed by the Hon'ble NGT-Principal Bench, New Delhi, wherein the Hon'ble tribunal directed all the respondents to file an affidavit in the defined timeframe.

In view of the aforesaid, the ministry vide its aforementioned letter dated 05.09.2024 has requested the factual report with respect to the water bodies/wetlands of Delhi including brief documents with respect to the identified water bodies in Delhi. The copies of orders dated 29.05.2024 and 17.09.2024 along with ministry's letters dated 05.09.2024 and 23.09.2024 is enclosed.

The factual report is still awaited. It is kindly requested to provide the report urgently in the present matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Pankaj Verma)

Addl. Director/Scientist-E

Encl. as above.

(11)

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
 GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
 "C" Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat Building, I P Estate, New Delhi 110002
 Tele-Fax: 011-23392736 E-mail ceodpgsenv.delhi@nic.in

F1(30)/WA/WB/OA-633/2024/2024-25 | 3754-55.

Date: 12/14/2024

To,

Addl. Director/Scientist-E
 Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
 Govt. of India,
 Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
 Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi - 110003

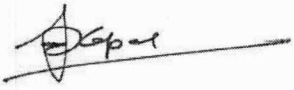
Sub: Original Application No. 633/2024 titled as "News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

Sir,

Please refer your email dated 04.12.2024 regarding OA No. 633/2024 titled as "News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

In this regard, please find enclosed herewith status report in the above said matter.

Encls: As above

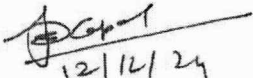

 Member Secretary
 Wetland Authority of Delhi

F1(30)/WA/WB/OA-633/2024/2024-25 | 3754-55

Date: 12/12/2024.

Copy to:-

1. PS to Pr. Secretary (E & F), GNCTD


 12/12/24
 Member Secretary
 Wetland Authority of Delhi

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
"C" Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat Building, I P Estate, New Delhi 110002
Tele-Fax: 011-23392736 E-mail ceodpgsenv.delhi@nic.in

F1(32)/WA/WB/OA-1117/2024/2024-25 / 3754-55

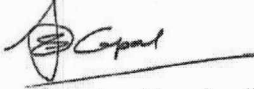
Date: 12/12/2024

STATUS REPORT IN THE MATTER OA NO. 633/2024 TITLED AS "NEWS ITEM TITLED "THE CURIOUS CASE OF DELHI'S DISAPPEARING WATER BODIES" APPEARING IN THE HINDU DATED 25.04.2024.

1. The instant matter is pertaining to the disappearance of water bodies in Delhi.
2. Water bodies are spread over the entire area of Delhi. These water bodies are under the management and control of different authorities which have ownership of the land on which such water bodies exist.
3. Presently water bodies in Delhi are being maintained by different authorities under whose jurisdiction they fall and their maintenance is being done by the land owning agencies. It is submitted that reconciliation of 1045 water bodies in Delhi is completed through coordination with 16 land owning agencies in whose area the water body falls.
4. Hon'ble Delhi High Court in the matter WP(C) No. 9617/2022 titled as "Court on its own motion Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors. directed that, "It was informed that there are 1,367 water bodies (1,045 listed water bodies and 322 other water bodies identified through satellite imagery).
5. Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide order dated 08.04.2024 in WP(C) No. 9617/2022 directed to complete Ground Truthing of 1023 water bodies out of 1367 (including 322 identified through satellite imagery).
6. As per the directions of Hon'ble Court, Revenue Department has carried out ground truthing of water bodies and submitted the report. Wetland Authority has directed to rejuvenate 631 number of water bodies out of 1045 listed water bodies in first phase through the land owning agencies. It is also submit that 322 additional sites identified by GSDL were ground truthed by Revenue Department and as per the report only 43 numbers of sites were found visible on the field. Details are follows:-

S. Nos.	District	Total Number (1367)		Ground Truthing Report		Total No. of Water Bodies prioritized for rejuvenation in 1st Phase
		Listed Water Bodies (1045)	Sites identified through Satellite imagery by GSDL (322)	No. of Water Bodies prioritized for rejuvenation in 1st Phase (Out of 1045)	No. of sites requested to be entered in Revenue records. (Out of 322)	
1.	East	46	4	6	0	6
2.	North East	32	15	11	0	11
3.	Shahadara	28	9	6	1	7
4.	North	196	79	143	0	143
5.	North West	135	32	100	4	104
6.	South	135	55	64	14	78
7.	South East	50	17	22	4	26
8.	South West	274	56	209	7	216
9.	West	64	22	39	3	42
10.	New Delhi	62	12	17	3	20
11.	Central	23	21	14	7	21
Total		1045	322	631	43	674

7. Wetland Authority of Delhi requested Revenue Department to map these new 43 number of water bodies and enter the same into the revenue records and further a plan may be made by land owning agency for the restoration/rejuvenation of the water body. If the water body pertains to other land owning agency same may be intimated to Wetland Authority. The reply from Revenue Department is awaited.
8. Wetland Authority of Delhi has requested to the concerned land owning agencies to clean the water bodies through de-silting and remove floating and other invasive aquatic plant species or else any other technology suiting local conditions and submit the report.
9. Last Meeting of Wetland Authority of Delhi has been conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GNCTD on 09.08.2024 and the District Magistrates were directed that completion of the restoration of water bodies has to be ensured through the District Committees formed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 08.04.2024 (W.P(C) No. 9617/2022) and it shall be ensured without fail that the work is completed after removal of encroachment before 31.12.2024. Copy of minutes is attached.
10. Wetland Authority of Delhi had directed the land-owning departments vide letter No.F.5(16)/WAWB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/3403-3400 dated 30.10.2024 to take several measures towards protection of water bodies under their jurisdiction as well as restoration and rejuvenation of water bodies. Copy of directions dated 30.10.2024 is attached.


 (Shyam Sundar Kandpal)
 Member Secretary
 Wetland Authority of Delhi

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
"C" Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002
Tele- 011-23392736, Email : ceodpgsenv.delhi@nic.in
Website: <http://dpgs.delhigovt.nic.in>

F. No.F5(16)/WA/WB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/ 3258-3298.

Dated: 10/10/2024,

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY OF DELHI, GNCTD HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY, DELHI ON FRIDAY, 09.08.2024 AT 3:00 PM.

Sixth meeting of the Wetland Authority of Delhi (WAD), GNCTD was held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Delhi with the members of Wetland Authority and water body owning agencies/their nominees looking after management of water bodies on Friday, 09.08.2024 at 3:00 PM in the Conference Hall- 2, Delhi Secretariat Building, New Delhi. List of participants is annexed as Annexure A.

With the permission of the Chief Secretary, the Member Secretary of the Authority Dr. Suneesh Buxy, CEO, DPGS welcomed the members of the authority and highlighted the main issues taken up by the authority in previous meetings.

Thereafter, Dr. K.S. Jayachandran, Spl. Secretary (Environment) gave a presentation on the progress made in conservation and management of Wetlands as well as the action taken in pursuance of previous meeting of the Authority.

The Authority was briefed about the judicial directions towards protection of water bodies such as Hon'ble Supreme court of India's orders in Writ Petition (s) (Civil) No(s). 230/2001 directing protection of water bodies in compliance with Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017. Similarly Hon'ble NGT, in OA No. 325/2015, (Lt. Col. Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi Vs. Union of India & Ors.) had directed preparation of action plans for restoration of all wetlands, and observed that there can be no dispute that water bodies play significant role in recharge of ground water, preventing soil erosion, harnessing rain water and maintaining micro-climate in area, and need for conservation and protection of water bodies is thus obvious.

The statutory duties of the Authority under the Wetland Rules-2017 including its mandate was appraised to the members of the Authority. The progress made so far against these statutory duties were appraised to the Authority as presented below:-

1. Listing of Wetlands

- 1.1 The Authority has so far listed 1045 Wetlands in Delhi based upon the reports of Court Commissioner (Water Bodies), Hon'ble Delhi High Court and Departmental submissions and UID numbers were allotted to 1045 water bodies.
- 1.2 The listing of the second tranche of 322 water bodies reconciled through satellite imagery of GSDL, Jal Shakti Ministry's First Census Report is in progress. The authority directed that the listing be completed expeditiously.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

2. Preparation of Brief Documents

- 2.1 The Authority was briefed that 710 brief documents has so far been prepared in coordination with the land owning department.
- 2.2 Chief Secretary, Delhi directed preparation of brief documents for 674 water bodies which have been ground truthed recently so that their notifications can be examined.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi,
District Magistrates and Land owning departments]

3. Recommendation of Wetlands for regulation

- 3.1 It was informed that Technical Committee consisting of six wetland experts was formed on 01.07.2021 and so far seven meetings were held and as a result 20 water bodies were prioritized for immediate notification. The authority directed that the prioritized water bodies should be processed for immediate notification.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

4. Notification

- 4.1 It was briefed that draft notification of three water bodies such as Sanjay Lake, Smriti Van (Vasant Kunj) and Tikri Khurd Lake were sent to DDA for comments. DDA had replied that that area of Sanjay Lake and Smriti Van (Vasant Kunj) already notified under Forest Act 1927.

[Action: DDA]

- 4.2 Chief Secretary queried about the said notifications and asked DDA to confirm whether final notification under Forest Act has been completed.

- 4.3 Draft notification of the fourth wetland which is Welcome Jheel, was sent to MCD for comments and their comments are being examined.

- 4.4 It was decided that notification of prioritized water bodies be expedited so that their long term protection is ensured.

- 4.5 Additional Chief Secretary (IFCD) mentioned that the comments from the land owning agencies on draft notification should not be open ended and should be time bound given a period of 30 days so that the notification of prioritized water bodies can be expedited.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

5. Comprehensive Digital Inventory

- 5.1 It was briefed that the Govt. of India web portal acts as single point access system that synthesizes information on wetland sites, projects, initiatives and trainings. Till now 473 Brief Documents has been uploaded on Wetlands of India portal, by the Wetland Authority.

6. Restoration Actions

- 6.1 The Authority was briefed that restoration actions are encouraged and monitored in coordination with 16 water body owning agencies. Out of 1367 water bodies, all the water bodies were ground truthed and it was found that 674 water bodies were found existing on the ground. In terms of the land owning department, DDA hosted the largest number of water bodies (822), while in terms of the district-wise distribution, South West district had the maximum which is 216 number of water bodies. The breakup of remaining 693 water bodies was also briefed to the members of the Authority
- 6.2 The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Hon'ble HC WP (C) 7594/2018) order dated 08.04.2024 had directed Revenue Department to prepare estimates for restoration of water bodies after ground truthing for which the time lines were 30.05.2024.
- 6.3 Chief Secretary directed IFCD Deptt. to undertake the rejuvenation of 674 water bodies on a war footing, and District Magistrates should ensure compliances of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court .

[Action: IFCD & District Magistrates]

- 6.4 The budgetary funding for restoration of water bodies may be sourced from the Gramodaya Scheme as far as urban areas are concerned; while DVDB can fund in areas where Gramodaya Scheme will not be able to fund.

[Action: District Magistrates & Development Deptt.]

- 6.5 The Hon'ble Delhi High Court had also directed that appropriate measures shall be taken for making entries of water bodies in revenue records by assigning responsibilities of each of such water body to specific officer, who shall visit such water body every fortnight to ensure its upkeep and proper maintenance. District Magistrates were directed to ensure complete action in this regard in letter and spirit.

[Action: District Magistrates]

6.6 The District Magistrates were also directed to explore public participation for operation and maintenance activities of water bodies in accordance with direction of said Hon'ble High Court order.

[Action: District Magistrates]

6.7 The Hon'ble Delhi High Court had also held Committee responsible for ground truthing and rejuvenation of these water bodies and execution of projects at ground at District Level for each of 11 Districts consisting of: District Magistrate, Revenue Deptt. GNCTD; Deputy Commissioner, MCD (in case of NDMC include Secretary NDMC; and in case of Delhi Cantonment Board include CEO Delhi Cantonment Board); Superintendent Engineer DDA, Superintendent Engineer DJB and Superintendent Engineer I&FC Deptt.

6.8 The District Magistrates were directed that completion of the restoration of water bodies has to be ensured through the District Committees formed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 08.04.2024 (W.P(C) No. 7594/2018) and it shall be ensured without fail that the work is completed after removal of encroachment before 31.12.2024.

[Action: District Magistrates in coordination with land owning departments]

6.9 Special Secretary (Environment) also presented Hon'ble National Green Tribunal's order dated 01.06.2020 (OA No. 325/2015) regarding restoration/creation of model ponds wherein all District Magistrates were directed to ensure as far as possible atleast one pond/water body must be restored in every village. Seven Districts has already identified 118 wetlands so far and the remaining District Magistrates was directed to comply with Hon'ble NGT's direction. The identified model ponds shall be monitored by the District Magistrates.

[Action: District Magistrates]

7. Directions to land owning agencies under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

- 7.1 One of the statutory duties of Wetland Authority of Delhi is to issue necessary directions for conservation and sustainable management of wetlands to the respective implementing agencies. Draft directions to ensure that certain activities (encroachments, C&D/sewage disposal, permanent construction) shall be prohibited within wetlands, and that prohibited activities are taken cognizance of, swiftly acted upon and removed, if needed through existing mechanisms of STF for encroachment removal. The Authority discussed the draft direction and approved the same.

[Action: Wetland Authority of Delhi]

- 7.2 Pr. Secretary (Environment) also felt that the work estimation of restoration should be based upon low cost restoration techniques completely in line with the restoration guidelines released by CPCB and Ministry of Jal Shakti and highly capital intensive activities such as concretization and boundary wall construction should be avoided.

[Action: IFCD & District Magistrates]

- 7.3 GSDL was directed to purchase DGPS and give necessary training to the District Magistrates so that water bodies are properly geo-fenced and referenced. Pr. Secretary (Environment) informed that DPCC should also do the procurement of DGPS and provide to District Magistrates.

[Action: GSDL & DPCC]

8. Protection of Major Wetlands

Tikri Khurd :

- 8.1 DDA is already under Hon'ble NGT directions to remove encroachments and undertake beautification of the water body. DDA has undertaken several encroachment removal drives, and as per information available with the authority 2 bighas land (2000 Sq. yards) of encroachment have been removed. DDA was directed to submit the total area of encroachments in the lake and the encroachment removal plan.

[Action: DDA]

Najafgarh Jheel :

- 8.2 Additional Chief Secretary (IFCD) mentioned that there are three drains from Haryana emptying polluted waters into the Najafgarh Jheel and IFCD had written a letter in this regard to Haryana State Govt. He desired that the comments of IFCD be also factored in future deliberations on the issue.

Bhalswa Lake :

- 8.3 DDA is already under directions of Hon'ble NGT case OA No. 105/2021 disposed off on 21.05.2021 to plan remedial measures needed to be undertaken by concerned department:

- 1) Cow dung from diary owners into storm water drain into lake into damage storm water drain - Interceptor drain to intercept incoming dung into supplementary drain (DJB)
- 2) DJB was constructing RCC box drain for trapping (2022)
- 3) Repair of damaged storm water drain by PWD
- 4) Construction of damaged boundary wall by DDA along Bhalswa dairy village

It was informed that Hon'ble Delhi High Court is also monitoring the rejuvenation of Bhalswa Lake in OA No. 105/2021 where the Hon'ble High Court directed *the* Chief Secretary to take note of the newspaper reports pertaining to drying up of Lake Bhalswa and threat of encroachment in the said area.

DDA, DJB and PWD were directed to expedite necessary actions and submit action taken reports and ensure compliance to Hon'ble NGT and Hon'ble Delhi High Court's directions.

[Action: DDA, DJB & PWD]

9. Grievance framework

9.1 The Authority was informed that Grievance Committees were constituted in every District vide Authority's order dated 01.07.2021 with the mandate as a mechanism for hearing the grievances raised by the public on wetlands falling under their respective jurisdiction. Major Grievances related to water bodies was briefed to the Authority and are presented as below alongwith concerned districts:-

- Mamoor pur (District: North)
- Ghewara ((District: North West)
- Hiranki (District: North)
- Prasad Nagar Lake (District: North)
- Pooth Khurd (District: North)
- Holambi Khurd (District: North)
- Lam Pur (District: North)
- Najafgarh Jheel (District: South West)
- Mayapuri (District: South West)
- Ashoka Park, New Friends Colony (District: South East)
- Mundka (District: West)

9.2 The major issues in these water bodies were sewage discharge and solid waste dumping. District Magistrates were directed to take up such disturbed water bodies on priorities for restoration.

[Action: District Magistrates]

9.3 To deal with the manpower shortage in the Wetland Authority of Delhi, the Authority requested the Services Department to post one Section Officer and one Assistant Section Officer on diverted capacity.

[Action: Services Department]

9.4 The Authority approved the proposal to engage an institution, organization or public agency, to assist the authority in coordination, monitoring of implementation of action plans through various line departments, undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands

[Action: District Magistrates and All land owning agencies]

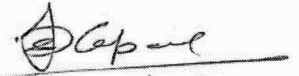
- 9.5 Pr. Secretary (Environment) the Vice Chairman of the Authority reiterated that District Magistrates need to be proactive and utilize the existing mechanisms such as District Committees constituted by the Hon'ble High Court as well as the statutory institutional mechanism of District Grievance Committees constituted by Wetland Authority of Delhi vide order dated 01.07.2021.
- 9.6 Concluding the meeting, Chief Secretary directed that 674 water bodies existing on the field are now the immediate priority and they shall be geo tagged on a mission mode in one month incorporating all boundary coordinates alongwith the Khasra Numbers and ensure restoration of the water bodies as per Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

[Action: District Magistrates]

- 9.7 Chief Secretary further directed that the District Magistrates shall be the custodian of the water bodies and ensure that the directions of the Authority as well as the crucial order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court dated 08.04.2024 (WP (C) 7594/2018) are complied with, in the letter and spirit, without fail.

[Action: District Magistrates]

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.



10/10/2024

Member Secretary
Wetland Authority of Delhi

F. No.F5(16)/WA/WB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/ 3258-3298.

Dated: 10/10/2024

To,

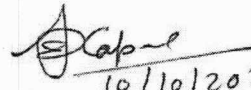
1. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi (**Member**)
2. Commissioner, MCD, 9th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, Delhi- 02 (**Member**)
3. Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Dev.), Development Department, GNCTD, Under Hill Road, Delhi-110054 (**Member**)
4. Secretary (Revenue)/Divisional Commissioner, Revenue Department, GNCTD, 5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54 (**Member**)
5. The Pr. Secretary (Environment), Department of Environment, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi (**Member**)
6. The Pr. Secretary (PWD), Public Works Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi(**Member**)

7. The Pr. Secretary (I&FC), Irrigation & Flood Control Department, GNCTD, Under Hill Road, Delhi- 54 **(Member)**
8. The Secretary (Deptt. of Fisheries), Fisheries Department, GNCT of Delhi, Under Hill Road, Delhi- 54 **(Member)**
9. The Secretary (UD), Deptt. of Urban Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi **(Member)**
10. The Secretary (Tourism), Department of Tourism, Govt. of NCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, Delhi **(Member)**
11. The Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Varunalaya, Jhandewalan, New Delhi **(Member)**
12. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi **(Member)**
13. All District Magistrates, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
14. Addl. PCCF of the regional office of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Lucknow **(Member)**
15. Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, GNCTD, ISBT Building, Delhi **(Member)**
16. Director, Delhi Zoo, Zoological Garden of Delhi, Mathura Road, New Delhi **(Member)**
17. CEO, DPGS, Department of Environment, GNCTD, C-Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat Building, New Delhi – 110002 **(Member)**
18. Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of UT, Delhi **(Member)**
19. CEO, Delhi Cantonment Board, Kirby Place, New Delhi **(Member)**
20. Sh. Manu Bhatnagar, Pr. Director, INTACH, 71, Lodi Estate, New Delhi-110003 **(Member)**
21. Prof. S.K. Singh, Delhi Technological University (DTU), Shahbad, Daulatpur, Bawana Road, Delhi-110042 **(Member)**
22. Sh. I.H. Khan, PCCF (Retd.), E-87/1, Abul Fazal Enclave-I, IIIrd Floor, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 **(Member)**
23. Dr. Man Singh, Professor & Project Director, Water Technology Centre, Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Janak vihar, Pusa, New Delhi- 110012 **(Member)**
24. Managing Director, Geo Spatial Data Ltd. (GSDL), Govt. of NCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, Delhi **(Member)**
25. Head of Delhi unit of CGWB, Central Ground Water Board, New Delhi **(Member)**
26. Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, GPO Complex, Block-D, IIIrd Floor, Puratatva Bhawan, INA, New Delhi – 110023 **(Member)**
27. Director (Environment), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002 **(Member)**
28. Director General, CPWD, A-Wing, Room No.- 111 , Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-110011
29. Secretary (ACL)-cum-HOD (Archaeology), GNCTD, Department of Archaeology, Vikas'B' Block, II floor, Vikas Bhawan-2, Upper Bela Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054
30. Managing Director, DSIIDC, N-36, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi -110001
31. CEO, DUSIB, GNCTD, 'C'Wing, 4th Floor, Vikas Bhawan-II, Upper Bela Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-54
32. C.E.O, Delhi Wakf Board, GNCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Upper Bela Road, Delhi- 54
33. Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi – 110067
34. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Dharohar Bhawan, 24- Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001
35. Registrar, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), HauzKhas, New Delhi – 110016
36. DCF, South Forest Division, Near Karni Singh Shooting Range, Tuglaqabad, Delhi- 66
37. DCF, North Forest Division, Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi- 07
38. DCF, West Forest Division, Mandir Marg, Delhi- 60
39. DCF, Central Forest Division, Kamla Nehru Ridge, Delhi-07

40. Sh. Sanjay Kumar Khare, Chief Engineer (HQ & QAC)/ Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, DDA, E-3, Ground Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi-110023
41. Sh. Anil Kumar Gupta, Chief Engineer, MCD/(Nodal Officer, Water Bodies), 9th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, Delhi – 110002
42. Sh. Anil Bharti, Superintending Engineer/Nodal Officer (Water Body), Delhi Jal Board, A-Bldg, Varunalaya, Jhandewalan, Delhi – 110005
43. Sh. Manoj Garg, Superintending Engineer, DC 2, CPWD, Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, CPWD, Vigyan Bhawan Circle, New Delhi - 110011
44. Superintending Engineer, Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Office of the Executive Engineer, C-11, DUSIB, First Floor, Circle Office Building, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007
45. Sh. Pawan Aggarwal, Executive Engineer (CD-12)/Nodal Officer-Water Bodies, DSIIDC, DSIIDC Site office, Auchandi road, Bawana, Delhi-110039
46. Executive Engineer-civil/Nodal Officer- Water Bodies, Jawahar Lal University (JNU), New Delhi – 110067
47. Sh. K.K. Tripathi, Executive Engineer (CD-II), Nodal Officer, Water Bodies, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110016
48. Sh. Kulveer Singh, AGM (Civil), NTPC Ltd., Badarpur Thermal Power Station, Mathura Road, New Delhi -110003

Copy to:-

1. Divisional Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Rev.), Rev. Deptt., GNCTD, 5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54
2. OSD to Chief Secretary, 5th Level, A-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002
3. PS to Pr. Secretary (E&F), Environment Deptt., GNCTD, 6th Level, C-wing, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi-110002


10/10/2024

**Member Secretary
Wetland Authority of Delhi**

(25)

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
"C" Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002
Tele-Fax : 011-23392736, Email : ceodpgeenv.delhi@nic.in
Website: <http://dpgs.delhigovt.nic.in>

F.5(16)/WA/WB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/3403-3400,

Dated : 20/10/2024

ORDER

Whereas it is necessary to expedite protection and restoration of Water Bodies in Delhi in a time bound manner and to support efficient conservation and management of wetlands in consonance with (Wetland [Conservation & Management] Rules, 2017).

Therefore, in exercise of powers under clause (n) of sub-rule (4) of Rule 5 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, the Wetland Authority of Delhi issues the following directions for compliance and necessary action by all concerned authorities :-

1. Protection of water bodies under one's jurisdiction through the following actions:

- (1) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,
 - (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;

- (iv) solid waste dumping;
- (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of Wetland Rules, 2017; and,
- (vii) poaching.

2. All concerned authorities shall ensure that:-


- (i) the above prohibited activities in water bodies are taken cognizance of, swiftly acted upon and removed, if needed through existing mechanisms of STF for encroachment removal constituted by the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide order no. F.36(35) Div.Comm/Pt.File/201/1038-1045 dated 26.03.2014, or the grievance committee constituted in Districts vide F.5(01)/WA/2019/519-531 dated 01.07.2021.
- (ii) Complete ground truthing and geo-tagging of water bodies which are listed but are yet to be ground truthed.
- (iii) Identify all remaining unlisted water bodies, ensure listing along with geo tagging and preparation of brief documents of all water bodies in the concerned jurisdiction as per the definition of Wetlands in Wetland Rules, 2017 with the master list of the Wetland Authority of Delhi, so that none of the water bodies in Delhi is left unlisted, unmapped and documented under the statutory framework.
- (iv) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands.
- (v) Consider the objections, if any, referred to by Wetland Authority of Delhi from the concerned and affected persons, during the process of notification of wetlands in the district by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

3. Restoration and rejuvenation of water bodies in respective jurisdiction through the following actions:

- i The concerned authorities shall also take measures to restore and rejuvenate all wetlands in the jurisdiction either departmentally or through work departments such as DJB, I&FC Department, PWD etc. and supervise their implementation in a time bound manner, in line with the management plan prepared on the basis of guidelines set by Wetland Authority of Delhi. The broad guidelines are as follows:
- (a) Water body should be cleaned through bio-remediation measures, de-silting, aeration, removal of floating and other invasive aquatic plant-species or any other technology suiting local conditions.
 - (b) Shore-line of the water bodies should be properly fenced to protect them from encroachment. Inlet and outlet of the water body should be strengthened.
 - (c) Inflow of domestic/ industrial sewage into the water body should be arrested and only treated effluent adhering to standards prescribed by CPCB may be allowed into the water body.
 - (d) Catchment area treatment via afforestation, storm water drainage management, silt traps, etc. may be undertaken.
 - (e) Water front development around the water body may be taken up, keeping in view the eco-system based approach for the aquatic body, conforming to prevalent environmental legislation and maintaining social and cultural sanctity of the place, in consonance with Wetland Rules 2017.
 - (f) Creation of public spaces may be taken up to ensure public eye and vigilance to protect from encroachment or throwing garbage.
 - (g) Participation of private sector, community based organizations, philanthropic foundations may be encouraged in rejuvenation and maintenance of water bodies.
 - (h) Plantation plays a significant role in absorption of storm and rainwater for maintenance of ground water table, prevention of soil erosion and run-off and encourage growth of natural habitat for flora and fauna.

- (i) Undertake plantation near water bodies, public spaces, parks and on roadside to improve green cover and water cycle.
 - (j) Monitor quality of water in the selected body on regular basis at least eight times a year, communicate the quality data to Wetland Authority of Delhi and undertake appropriate action to improve wherever necessary.
- ii The land owning agency or department shall prepare a management plan containing restoration actions in line with the catchment area and watershed principles and on the basis of the guidelines set by Wetland Authority of Delhi in consonance with Wetland Rules 2017.
 - iii After getting the management plan, duly approved by the Wetland Authority of Delhi, the land owning agency shall ensure that the work plan and estimates be prepared departmentally/internally or through work departments such as PWD, DJB, IFCD etc.
 - iv The budget for the implementation of the restoration project shall be planned through the departmental budget of the land owning department / agency. AMRUT guidelines also allow funding for rejuvenation of water bodies.
 - v Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing development plans and programmes.
4. **Submission of timelines:** The water body owning agency shall submit timelines on the following actions for water bodies in the district within 15 days:
- (i) Ground truthing and geo-tagging of 1023 water bodies in Annexure-I which are yet to be ground truthed (1367-344=1023)
 - (ii) Identification of unlisted water bodies and communication to Wetland Authority of Delhi along with geo coordinates.
 - (iii) Preparation of brief documents and management plan containing restoration actions by land owning agencies of all water bodies in one's jurisdiction.

- (iv) Preparation of estimates for restoration projects either departmentally or by work departments (PWD, DJB, IFCD etc.) after approval of management plan containing restoration actions by Wetland Authority of Delhi.
- (v) Restoration of water bodies either departmentally or through work departments.
5. **Submission of action taken reports:** Regular monthly reports shall be submitted by the water body owning agencies to the Wetland Authority of Delhi by 7th of every succeeding month clearly showing progress against declared timelines.
6. **Monitoring of projects through Delhi's e-samiksha Dashboard:** And whereas, the Planning Department of GNCTD shall add all the above-mentioned actionable points on Delhi's e-samiksha Dashboard for the purpose of monitoring, after the receipt of timelines. Wetland Authority of Delhi will help Planning Department in on-boarding the water bodies ground truthed so far against the respective land-owning departments, and as a continuous process, the remaining water bodies, when they are ground truthed.
7. **Responsibilities and Liabilities:** And whereas, to ensure clarity in ownership of work, clear responsibilities, complete adherence to deadlines and the accountability of officers directly dealing with it, the heads of the land owning departments would submit the names of Nodal officers within 15 days, who shall be personally responsible for ensuring completion of the all the above directions within the declared timelines, and any failure of such nodal officer to ensure execution of the projects / works / responsibilities within the timeline stipulated in the action plan will make such nodal officer liable for disciplinary as well as criminal proceedings for wilful disobedience of the orders passed by the Hon'ble Courts, and also for criminal disregard towards protection and conservation of water bodies as well as their failure to discharge their constitutional obligation to the citizens to provide clean environment by protecting the scarce sources of water.



30/11/24
 (Shayam Sunder Kandpal)
 (Member Secretary)
 Wetland Authority of Delhi
 Govt. of NCT of Delhi

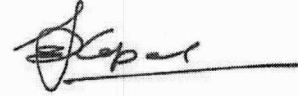
To,

1. Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) cum Divisional Commissioner, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5 Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54.
2. Pr. Secretary (I&FC), GNCTD, 2nd Floor, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi
3. Principal Secretary (PWD), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5th Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi - 02.
4. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Varunalaya Ph-II, Jhandewalan, Delhi
5. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Forest, GNCTD
6. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, 9th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, Delhi
7. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, INA, Delhi
8. Secretary, Department of Archaeology, GNCTD, (ACL), B' Block, II floor, Vikas Bhawan-2, Upper Bela Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054
9. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Vikas Bhawan, A-Block, 2nd Floor, I.P. Estate, New Delhi
10. Member Secretary, Wetland Authority of Delhi
11. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Punarwas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi
12. Managing Director, Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. N-36, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi
13. Director General, CPWD, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
14. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi
15. C.E.O, Delhi Wakf Board, GNCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Upper Bela Road, Delhi
16. Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC Limited, NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
17. Vice Chancellor, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi
18. Director & Officiating Chairman, IIT, Hauz Khas, New Delhi

Copy to (For Information):

1. Pr. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
2. Addl. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
3. Secretary to Deputy Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
4. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister (Environment & Forests), Govt of NCT of Delhi.
5. Secretaries to Hon'ble Ministers, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

6. Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-01.
7. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi.
8. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council, Palika Kendra, New Delhi-01.
9. Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police Headquarters, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi- 01.
10. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-32.
11. Pr. Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 4th level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi - 02.
12. Pr. Secretary Cum Development Commissioner, Development Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi-54.
13. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Cantonment Board, Delhi Cantt, Delhi.



(Shayam Sunder Kandpal)
(Member Secretary)
Wetland Authority of Delhi
Govt. of NCT of Delhi

OFFICE OF THE WETLAND AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
"C" Wing, 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002
Tele-Fax : 011-23392736, Email : ceodpgeenv.delhi@nic.in
Website: <http://dpgs.delhigovt.nic.in>

F.5(16)/WA/WB/DIRECTIONS/2023-24/3403-3400,

Dated : 20/10/2024

ORDER

Whereas it is necessary to expedite protection and restoration of Water Bodies in Delhi in a time bound manner and to support efficient conservation and management of wetlands in consonance with (Wetland [Conservation & Management] Rules, 2017).

Therefore, in exercise of powers under clause (n) of sub-rule (4) of Rule 5 of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2017, the Wetland Authority of Delhi issues the following directions for compliance and necessary action by all concerned authorities :-

1. Protection of water bodies under one's jurisdiction through the following actions:

- (1) The following activities shall be prohibited within the wetlands, namely,
 - (i) conversion for non-wetland uses including encroachment of any kind;
 - (ii) setting up of any industry and expansion of existing industries;
 - (iii) manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of construction and demolition waste covered under the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016; hazardous substances covered under the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 or the Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro-organisms Genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989 or the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008; electronic waste covered under the E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2016;

- (iv) solid waste dumping;
- (v) discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements;
- (vi) any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within fifty metres from the mean high flood level observed in the past ten years calculated from the date of commencement of Wetland Rules, 2017; and,
- (vii) poaching.

2. All concerned authorities shall ensure that:-

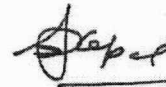
- (i) the above prohibited activities in water bodies are taken cognizance of, swiftly acted upon and removed, if needed through existing mechanisms of STF for encroachment removal constituted by the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide order no. F.36(35) Div.Comm/Pt.File/201/1038-1045 dated 26.03.2014, or the grievance committee constituted in Districts vide F.5(01)/WA/2019/519-531 dated 01.07.2021.
- (ii) Complete ground truthing and geo-tagging of water bodies which are listed but are yet to be ground truthed.
- (iii) Identify all remaining unlisted water bodies, ensure listing along with geo tagging and preparation of brief documents of all water bodies in the concerned jurisdiction as per the definition of Wetlands in Wetland Rules, 2017 with the master list of the Wetland Authority of Delhi, so that none of the water bodies in Delhi is left unlisted, unmapped and documented under the statutory framework.
- (iv) Undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands.
- (v) Consider the objections, if any, referred to by Wetland Authority of Delhi from the concerned and affected persons, during the process of notification of wetlands in the district by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

3. Restoration and rejuvenation of water bodies in respective jurisdiction through the following actions:

- i The concerned authorities shall also take measures to restore and rejuvenate all wetlands in the jurisdiction either departmentally or through work departments such as DJB, I&FC Department, PWD etc. and supervise their implementation in a time bound manner, in line with the management plan prepared on the basis of guidelines set by Wetland Authority of Delhi. The broad guidelines are as follows:
- (a) Water body should be cleaned through bio-remediation measures, de-silting, aeration, removal of floating and other invasive aquatic plant-species or any other technology suiting local conditions.
 - (b) Shore-line of the water bodies should be properly fenced to protect them from encroachment. Inlet and outlet of the water body should be strengthened.
 - (c) Inflow of domestic/ industrial sewage into the water body should be arrested and only treated effluent adhering to standards prescribed by CPCB may be allowed into the water body.
 - (d) Catchment area treatment via afforestation, storm water drainage management, silt traps, etc. may be undertaken.
 - (e) Water front development around the water body may be taken up, keeping in view the eco-system based approach for the aquatic body, conforming to prevalent environmental legislation and maintaining social and cultural sanctity of the place, in consonance with Wetland Rules 2017.
 - (f) Creation of public spaces may be taken up to ensure public eye and vigilance to protect from encroachment or throwing garbage.
 - (g) Participation of private sector, community based organizations, philanthropic foundations may be encouraged in rejuvenation and maintenance of water bodies.
 - (h) Plantation plays a significant role in absorption of storm and rainwater for maintenance of ground water table, prevention of soil erosion and run-off and encourage growth of natural habitat for flora and fauna.

- (i) Undertake plantation near water bodies, public spaces, parks and on roadside to improve green cover and water cycle.
 - (j) Monitor quality of water in the selected body on regular basis at least eight times a year, communicate the quality data to Wetland Authority of Delhi and undertake appropriate action to improve wherever necessary.
- ii The land owning agency or department shall prepare a management plan containing restoration actions in line with the catchment area and watershed principles and on the basis of the guidelines set by Wetland Authority of Delhi in consonance with Wetland Rules 2017.
 - iii After getting the management plan, duly approved by the Wetland Authority of Delhi, the land owning agency shall ensure that the work plan and estimates be prepared departmentally/internally or through work departments such as PWD, DJB, IFCD etc.
 - iv The budget for the implementation of the restoration project shall be planned through the departmental budget of the land owning department / agency. AMRUT guidelines also allow funding for rejuvenation of water bodies.
 - v Identify mechanisms for convergence of implementation of the management plan with the existing development plans and programmes.
4. **Submission of timelines:** The water body owning agency shall submit timelines on the following actions for water bodies in the district within 15 days:
- (i) Ground truthing and geo-tagging of 1023 water bodies in Annexure-I which are yet to be ground truthed (1367-344=1023)
 - (ii) Identification of unlisted water bodies and communication to Wetland Authority of Delhi along with geo coordinates.
 - (iii) Preparation of brief documents and management plan containing restoration actions by land owning agencies of all water bodies in one's jurisdiction.

- (iv) Preparation of estimates for restoration projects either departmentally or by work departments (PWD, DJB, IFCD etc.) after approval of management plan containing restoration actions by Wetland Authority of Delhi.
- (v) Restoration of water bodies either departmentally or through work departments.
5. **Submission of action taken reports:** Regular monthly reports shall be submitted by the water body owning agencies to the Wetland Authority of Delhi by 7th of every succeeding month clearly showing progress against declared timelines.
6. **Monitoring of projects through Delhi's e-samiksha Dashboard:** And whereas, the Planning Department of GNCTD shall add all the above-mentioned actionable points on Delhi's e-samiksha Dashboard for the purpose of monitoring, after the receipt of timelines. Wetland Authority of Delhi will help Planning Department in on-boarding the water bodies ground truthed so far against the respective land-owning departments, and as a continuous process, the remaining water bodies, when they are ground truthed.
7. **Responsibilities and Liabilities:** And whereas, to ensure clarity in ownership of work, clear responsibilities, complete adherence to deadlines and the accountability of officers directly dealing with it, the heads of the land owning departments would submit the names of Nodal officers within 15 days, who shall be personally responsible for ensuring completion of the all the above directions within the declared timelines, and any failure of such nodal officer to ensure execution of the projects / works / responsibilities within the timeline stipulated in the action plan will make such nodal officer liable for disciplinary as well as criminal proceedings for wilful disobedience of the orders passed by the Hon`ble Courts, and also for criminal disregard towards protection and conservation of water bodies as well as their failure to discharge their constitutional obligation to the citizens to provide clean environment by protecting the scarce sources of water.



30/11/24
 (Shayam Sunder Kandpal)
 (Member Secretary)
 Wetland Authority of Delhi
 Govt. of NCT of Delhi

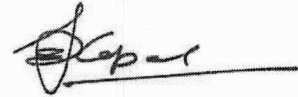
To,

1. Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) cum Divisional Commissioner, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5 Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54.
2. Pr. Secretary (I&FC), GNCTD, 2nd Floor, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi
3. Principal Secretary (PWD), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5th Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi - 02.
4. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Varunalaya Ph-II, Jhandewalan, Delhi
5. Principal Secretary, Department of Environment & Forest, GNCTD
6. Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, 9th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, Minto Road, Delhi
7. Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, INA, Delhi
8. Secretary, Department of Archaeology, GNCTD, (ACL), B' Block, II floor, Vikas Bhawan-2, Upper Bela Road, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054
9. Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF), Vikas Bhawan, A-Block, 2nd Floor, I.P. Estate, New Delhi
10. Member Secretary, Wetland Authority of Delhi
11. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Punarwas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi
12. Managing Director, Delhi State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. N-36, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi
13. Director General, CPWD, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
14. Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi
15. C.E.O, Delhi Wakf Board, GNCTD, Vikas Bhawan-II, A-Wing, 7th Floor, Upper Bela Road, Delhi
16. Chairman and Managing Director, NTPC Limited, NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
17. Vice Chancellor, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi
18. Director & Officiating Chairman, IIT, Hauz Khas, New Delhi

Copy to (For Information):

1. Pr. Secretary to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
2. Addl. Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
3. Secretary to Deputy Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
4. Secretary to Hon'ble Minister (Environment & Forests), Govt of NCT of Delhi.
5. Secretaries to Hon'ble Ministers, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

6. Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi-01.
7. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi.
8. Chairman, New Delhi Municipal Council, Palika Kendra, New Delhi-01.
9. Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police Headquarters, Jai Singh Road, New Delhi- 01.
10. Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-32.
11. Pr. Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 4th level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi - 02.
12. Pr. Secretary Cum Development Commissioner, Development Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi-54.
13. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Cantonment Board, Delhi Cantt, Delhi.



(Shayam Sunder Kandpal)
(Member Secretary)
Wetland Authority of Delhi
Govt. of NCT of Delhi