

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 511 OF 2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

PRIYANK BHARATI

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 5 i.e. NMCG

INDEX

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
1.	Affidavit in compliance of order dated 05.08.2024 on Behalf of Respondent No. 5- NMCG	
2.	Annexure – A ; Copy of Minutes of meeting dated 13.06.2025.	

Date: 14 .07.2025

Place: New Delhi



ADVOCATE FOR THE RESPONDENT:

Gigi.C.George, Advocate
Standing Counsel (UOI)
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AFFIDAVIT IN COMPLIANCE OF ORDER DATED 05.08.2024 ON BEHALF OF
RESPONDENT NO. 5 i.e. NMCG

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

I, Anup Kumar Sirvastava, aged about 58 years, presently working as Executive Director (Technical) in the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, New Delhi do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am working as Executive Director (Technical) in the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, New Delhi. I am duly authorized for and on behalf of the Respondent No. 5 to swear to the present affidavit.

I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case from the records.

2. That at the outset it is submitted that NMCG is one of the authorities constituted in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 3 of Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide notification no. S.O. No. 3187(E) dated 07.10.2016, published in the gazette of India. NMCG has been mandated with for the



5



implementation of programs for protection, prevention and rejuvenation of river Ganga and its tributaries christened as the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) of the Central Government. The NGP focuses on effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation, protection and management of the river Ganga and its tributaries through interventions like taking up sewerage infrastructure projects for interception, diversion and treatment of waste water discharge from open drains into the river through construction of new STPs and/or rehabilitation and augmentation of existing STPs, laying of sewage pipelines etc.

3. That it is submitted that the present matter pertains to the protection, conservation, and rejuvenation of the Budhi Ganga River and its floodplain area, which is reportedly under threat due to encroachments, unregulated activities, and lack of proper demarcation. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has, in the captioned matter, issued directions to ensure that the floodplain of the river is demarcated in accordance with the applicable guidelines and that no construction or activity is permitted within the floodplain until such demarcation is completed.
4. That it is submitted that a proposal titled "Hydrological Investigation, Revival, and Restoration Plan for the Budhi Ganga River" was submitted by the District Ganga Committee (DGC), Meerut to NMCG. The proposal was reviewed in a meeting convened on 13.06.2025 in NMCG. That the following major deliberations and decisions were taken in the said meeting:
 - a) The revival of the Budhi Ganga River was acknowledged as significant; however, it was observed that it is necessary to identify a sustainable and perennial source of water to ensure the long-term revival of the river and its ecosystem. The necessity of setting up three (3) nos. of G&D stations was



advised to be reconsidered, especially since there is no flowing water presently in the river course.

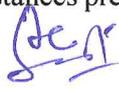
- b) It was noted that the Central Water Commission (CWC) has already completed floodplain zoning for 1-in-5 and 1-in-25-year flood recurrence intervals for the Ganga river stretch from Haridwar to Unnao, implemented by the State Government vide letter dated 04.09.2020. The State Government has approached CWC for 1-in-100-year floodplain zoning. Accordingly, it was advised that an investigation/confirmation be carried out to ascertain whether the Budhi Ganga and its floodplain are part of the larger Ganga floodplain. NIH was advised to coordinate with the Irrigation Department and DGC, Meerut to examine this aspect.
- c) The District Project Officer intimated that the river course area has been declared a State Barasingha Sanctuary (formerly Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary). Accordingly, it was advised that views or No Objection Certificates from the concerned Forest and Wildlife authorities may be obtained.
- d) The Assistant Engineer, Irrigation Department, Uttar Pradesh, intimated that an unlined irrigation canal operates for four months during the Kharif season, drawing water from Bijnor Barrage, and drains excess discharge into the River Ganga via multiple outlets, including the Soti Drain. The canal alignment largely runs along or parallel to the Budhi Ganga course. The surrounding area is primarily used for agricultural purposes and has human settlements.
- e) It was further advised that the revival plan should comprehensively consider the water quality aspect and include measures to prevent polluting water from entering the river along its stretch. Furthermore, the development of the land



and water management plan must take into account existing canal alignments and comply with relevant regulatory frameworks.

Copy of the minutes of meeting dated 13.06.2025 is marked and attached herewith as **Annexure – 1**. That the response of the State Govt is awaited.

5. That it is submitted that the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), as the implementing agency for the Namami Gange Programme, has been proactively guiding and coordinating various stakeholders including the District Ganga Committees, State Government Departments, and technical institutions for the rejuvenation and sustainable management of river stretches like Budhi Ganga. NMCG has facilitated consultations, technical studies etc. for identifying appropriate interventions and continues to monitor the progress to ensure that the revival plan is scientifically sound, environmentally sustainable, and compliant with the statutory framework.
6. That, the answering respondent herein craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply, in future, if required.
7. In view of this, it is prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may consider passing an appropriate order or direction in accordance with the facts and circumstances presented.


DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

I, the deponent above named do hereby verify that the contents of the aforesaid affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom. Verified at New Delhi on this ____ day of July 2025.


DEPONENT

Date: 14. 07. 2025

Place: New Delhi



ATTESTED

NOTARY PUBLIC



14 JUL 2025

*Identify the Deponent who
Signed in his Presence.*

फा.सं/F.No -Q-23/1/2024-O/o ED(TECH) NMCG

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

Ministry of Jal Shakti

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन

National Mission for Clean Ganga

प्रथम तल, मेजर ध्यानचंद, राष्ट्रीय स्टेडियम,

इंडिया गेट, नई दिल्ली- 110002

दिनांक: 18/06/2025

Subject: Minutes of the Meeting, held on 13th June 2025 at NMCG, New Delhi, Reg-Review of Proposal Titled "Hydrological Investigation, Revival, and Restoration Plan for the Budhi Ganga River" Submitted by DGC, Meerut.

A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting, held on 13th June 2025 at NMCG, New Delhi, regarding review of proposal titled "Hydrological Investigation, Revival, and Restoration Plan for the Budhi Ganga River" Submitted by DGC, Meerut is attached, herewith for necessary action as indicated therein.

Encl: As Above

(अनूप कुमार श्रीवास्तव)
कार्यकारी निदेशक (तकनीकी)

To

1. District Magistrate, District Project Officer, District Ganga Committee, Lalkurti Bazaar, Police Lines, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh 250001
2. DR. P C Nayak, Sci 'F', Surface Water Hydrology Division, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Jal Vigyan Bhawan, Uttarakhand, Roorkee-247667

Copy for information:

1. PPS to Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, New Delhi

Minutes of Meeting held on 13/06/2025**Subject: Review of Proposal Titled "Hydrological Investigation, Revival, and Restoration Plan for the Budhi Ganga River" Submitted by DGC, Meerut**

A meeting was held on 13/06/2025 under the chairmanship of ED(T), NMCG to review above mentioned proposal. A presentation on the said proposal was made by NIH. The list of the participants is attached at **Annexure-1**. Important decisions taken/deliberations held are as under:

- a) While acknowledging the significance of revival of Budhi Ganga, it was felt necessary to identify a sustainable and perennial source of water to support revival of Budhi Ganga river and its biota on a long-term basis. Similarly, the need for setting up of 3 nos. of G&D stations should also be reconsidered particularly when there is no flowing water in the river course;
- b) It was noted that the Central Water Commission (CWC) has already completed floodplain zoning for 1-in-5 and 1-in-25-year flood recurrence intervals for Ganga river stretch (from Haridwar to Unnao), and has been implemented by the state government vide letter 164/2020/2031/20-27-सि०-4-07 (एन० जी०टी०)/16 टी०सी० dated 04/09/2020. It is understood that State Government has already approached CWC for 1-in-100-year floodplain zoning.

In light of above, it requires investigation/confirmation whether Budhi Ganga and its flood plain is part of larger Ganga floodplain or not. NIH was advised to coordinate with the Irrigation Department and DGC, Meerut to examine this aspect as well;

- c) The District Project Officer (DPO) intimated that the area of river course has been declared as the State Barasingha Sanctuary (formerly Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary). Accordingly, the necessity of obtaining views/No Objection from the concerned forest and wildlife authorities may be looked into;
- d) The Assistant Engineer (AE), Irrigation Department, UP intimated that unlined irrigation canal operates for four months only during Kharif (seasonal) drawing water from Bijnaur Barrage, and has multiple exit outlets, including the Soti Drain, which drains excess discharge into the River Ganga. On further enquiry, it was informed that the canal alignment, more or less, runs along or parallel to the Budhi Ganga course. It was also reported that the adjoining areas is currently being utilized for agricultural purposes, and have settlements also;
- e) It was also suggested that revival plan should also look into water quality aspect of the river, and suggestions be reflected to check polluting water meeting with it anywhere in its stretch;

The development of the land and water management plan must consider existing canal alignments and comply with other regulatory frame works. In view of these observations, proposal is required to revisited for incorporation of above-mentioned observations.



Annexure-I**NIH Roorkee**

1. Dr. P.C. Nayak, Scientist - F
2. Dr. Sumant Kumar, Scientist – E
3. Dr. Surinaidu, Scientist – D
4. Dr. Soumya Ranjan, Scientist – B

District Ganga Committee, Meerut

5. Sri Tushar Gupta, District Project Officer, DGC, Meerut

U.P. Irrigation Department

6. Sri Brij Kishore, Asst. Engineer

NMCG

7. Sri Anup Kr. Srivastava, ED(T)
8. Ms Anjali, Scientist – C
9. Ms Arpita Kumari, Legal Consultant
10. Sri Samarth Sharma, Research Officer

