

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

Original Application No. 1271/2024

Shri Khroo. L. Pariat
....Applicant

Vs.

State of Meghalaya and Ors.
....Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT ON THE BEHALF OF DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA
REJUVENATION (RESPONDENT NO.12)**

I, Mahesh Kumar Kashyap, S/o Late Deo Narayan Lal Baranwal aged 55 Years, in capacity of Under Secretary to Govt. of India in Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti in my official capacity, solemnly affirm and sincerely state as follows-

1. That I, the deponent is duly competent and authorised to swear the present affidavit on behalf of the Department of water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti on the basis of the official records maintained therein.
2. That I have perused and understood the contents of the said Original Application filed before the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, Delhi.
3. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) vide order dated 22.08.2025 and notice dated 10.11.2025 has sought the reply of Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in instant Original Application. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraph.
4. That, in the application, the applicant has pleaded for the following:

- i. Direct the formation of a committee to investigate the condition of the Myntdu river and report its findings to the honorable High Court.
- ii. Recognition of the Myntdu river as a legal entity with rights that must be restored and protected, including the enforcement of a 100-meter buffer zone from each bank, as per legal provisions.
- iii. Mandating the removal of construction debris from the river and the affected paddy fields.
- iv. Ensuring the compensation for the affected farmers.
- v. Establishing a sustainable resolution to the water supply issues and ensuring healthy drinking water to the people of Jowai and surrounding villages.
- vi. Granting any other relief and further plans of action as the Hon'ble Court deems fit and proper.

5. That, the said issues in the Application are related to the State Government and other respondents, and no specific prayer has been sought from Respondent No. 12.

6. That, it is the primary responsibility of States/Union Territories (UTs) and Urban Local Bodies to ensure required treatment of sewage and industrial effluents to the prescribed norms before discharging into the rivers and other water bodies. For conservation of rivers, Ministry of Jal Shakti has been supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of the rivers in the country through Central Sector Scheme of "Namami Gange" for rivers in Ganga Basin and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "National River Conservation Plan" (NRCP) for Other River Basins.

7. That, proposals for pollution abatement works in town along polluted river stretches are received from States/UTs from time to time for consideration under NRCP which are considered subject to prioritization, conformity with the scheme guidelines, third party appraisal and availability of funds. In regard to operation

and maintenance of the assets created under NRCP, it is the sole responsibility of the State Government /Urban Local Bodies.

8. That, as per the framework provided in the directions of Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 06.12.2019 in OA No. 673/2018, 'River Rejuvenation Committees' have already been constituted for the State of Meghalaya comprising the Director, Urban Development; Director, Industries; and Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board. The focal action plans of the RRC inter alia envisages following actions:
 - i. Identification of polluting sources including functioning/status of STPs/ETPs/CETP and solid waste management and processing facilities.
 - ii. Quantification and characterization of solid waste, trade and sewage generated in the catchment area of the polluted river stretch
 - iii. Issues related to groundwater extraction, adopting good irrigation practices, protection and management of Flood Plain Zones (FPZ), rainwater harvesting, groundwater charging;
 - iv. Maintaining minimum environmental flow (e-flow) of river and plantation on both sides of the river, setting up of biodiversity parks on floodplains by removing encroachment.
9. That, the **River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC)** has devised an action plan for rejuvenation of river Myntdu, with the approval of CPCB, incorporating components like - channelization, treatment, utilization and disposal of treated domestic sewage, industrial pollution control, solid waste management, flood plain zoning, e-flow etc. The responsibility for implementation of the action plan lies within the River Rejuvenation Committee. The progress of the same is being monitored by the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development

& Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.

10. That, the increasing rate of urbanization and subsequent activities have taken a toll on the river's floodplains, especially in the hilly areas holding a fragile ecosystem, thereby making them more prone to floods. Though structural measures are in place, it has now been understood that, to have a reasonable degree of protection, both structural and non-structural flood management measures have to be put in place. The principle of Flood Plain Zoning, has therefore been advocated by Government of India to the states. Flood Plain Zoning is the process of zoning a river's floodplain to regulate the activities within each zone. Government of India through Central Water Commission (CWC) has been advocating the states to adopt FPZ to protect their river's floodplains from encroachment and illegal dumping of waste.
11. That, to further encourage the states to take up Flood Plain Zoning, two national level workshops were held at New Delhi during November and December 2024. Further, to sensitize the co-basin states, two regional level workshops were also held at Lucknow (for Ganga basin) and Guwahati (for North-Eastern states) during March 2025. The workshop at Guwahati was attended by representatives from various N-E states including Meghalaya. The workshop covered various aspects of Flood Plain Zoning including the methodology, data courses, case studies and challenges.
12. That, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), has issued the "Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020" (EMGSM 2020), thereby modifying the earlier "Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016" with a view to strengthening enforcement of regulatory provisions and monitoring of sand mining activities. The EMGSM 2020, inter-alia, directs all States and Union Territories to undertake river audits, place detailed survey reports of all mining leases in the public domain through online platforms, conduct replenishment studies of riverbeds, ensure continuous monitoring of mining operations through drones, aerial and ground surveys, constitute dedicated district-level task forces, promote online sale and purchase of sand and other riverbed materials to ensure transparency, and provide for night surveillance of mining operations by deployment of night-vision drones.



13. That it is submitted that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), based on pollution assessment of rivers in the country, identifies State and River wise Polluted River Stretches. Further, these stretches are categorized under Priority I to V depending upon severity of pollution (in terms of values of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) in descending order.
14. That, **as per the CPCB report of 2025, no polluted river stretches were identified on River Myntdu in the state of Meghalaya.**
15. That in the light of the above submissions, it is respectfully submitted that Respondent 12, i.e., Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant OA.

VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this the 29th day of January, 2026 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and as derived from the record maintained by National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. No part of it is false, and nothing material has been concealed there from.



DEPONENT

महेश कुमार कश्यप / MAHESH KUMAR KASHYAP
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
एन. आर. सी. डी. / N. R. C. D.
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय / Ministry of Jal Shakti
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
Department of Water Resources, RD & GR
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली / Govt. of India, New Delhi