

509

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 1088 of 2024

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Natural Social; Services

... Applicant

Versus

Director General Directorate of Tourism &amp; Ors

... Respondent

## Index

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	<b>Additional Affidavit</b> on behalf of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).	
2.	<b>Annexure- I:</b> Copy 13 <sup>th</sup> cell meeting minutes of meeting dated 29.12.2025	
3.	<b>Annexure- II:</b> Copy Show Cause Notice dated 05.02.2026.	

## THROUGH

DATE: 24.02.2025

PLACE: NEW DELHI

Gigi.C.George, Advocate

Advocate for Respondent

Ch No. 457, Lawyers Block-1

Delhi High Court, New Delhi

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510

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 1088 of 2024

**IN THE MATTER OF:****Natural Social; Services****... Applicant****Versus****Director General Directorate of Tourism & Ors****... Respondent**

ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA i.e. RESPONDENT NO. 5.

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 the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is one of the authorities constituted in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 3 of Section 3 of the *Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986* vide *notification no. S.O. 3187(E) dated 07.10.2016* inter-alia to take measures for prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in river Ganga and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water so as to rejuvenate the River Ganga. NMCG is a nodal agency for the implementation of the provisions of the above notification and for effective abatement of pollution and rejuvenation, protection and management of the River Ganga and its tributaries;



3. That the present additional affidavit is being filed in Original Application No. 1088 of 2024, wherein the Applicant has raised grievances regarding the alleged construction of Garwa Ghat, approximately 233 meters in length, on the Ganga riverfront at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The Applicant has referred to a newspaper article dated 10.08.2023 stating that the project was sanctioned by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh through the Tourism Department with a budget of Rs. 7.35 crores, and has alleged that the construction is in violation of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 and the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad restricting activities within 200 meters of River Ganga.
4. That it is respectfully submitted that, in continuation of the earlier affidavit dated 05.12.2025 and pursuant to the examination of the proposal seeking prior approval for construction of Garwa Ghat, the proposal submitted by the Project Proponent was placed before the competent Cell of the National Mission for Clean Ganga in terms of the provisions of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016. The said proposal was considered in the 13th Meeting of the Cell held on 29.12.2025 at NMCG, New Delhi, wherein the Project Proponent made a presentation and placed relevant details on record. The key observations and submissions made during the said meeting are summarized hereunder:
- The proposed works include construction of Garhwa Ghat over a length of 80 meters, construction of two gazebos and one palki, and construction of two changing rooms. The project also includes installation of one 16-meter high-mast lighting system with eight luminaires, installation of two 7-meter solar poles with a total of ten luminaires, construction of two bio-toilets, installation of four signage boards, installation of ten dustbins, and installation of two water kiosks.
  - Earlier the project was for construction of 233 meters long Garwa ghat which has now been reduced to 96 meter.
  - It was informed that the EIA study has been performed but NMCG has not received any submission in this regard.
  - It was observed that, NMCG submitted observations on DPR of 5 Ghat (including Gwara Ghat) dated 22/10/2016 and commented that "The justification for the need of construction of New Ghats as informed by U.P. irrigation department seems to be acceptable. However, it was not executed at that time. Later, the work was reassigned to Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department



## 512

with changed scope of work. for which UPPCL has submitted a fresh application dated 28.11.2025 seeking prior permission.

- e. The project proponent informed that the recommendations of the DGC had been obtained; however, no such recommendation is submitted to NMCG. Further, it was observed that no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study has also been submitted to NMCG.
- f. It was informed that the 85% of the construction has been completed. The project proponent was advised to submit DPR including EMP, hydrological studies, effect of proposal on the river morphology, etc. It was also emphasized that no construction is allowed in the active flood plain. Accordingly, clarification must be obtained from irrigation department regarding the extent of flood plain and whether the construction falls in regulatory zone or prohibited zone.
- g. That the Cell further observed that several essential documents and requisite information were not available on record for proper appraisal of the proposal, inter alia including:
  - i. recommendation of the District Ganga Committee (DGC);
  - ii. clarification from the State Irrigation Department regarding the demarcation and extent of the active floodplain and confirmation as to whether the proposed/undertaken construction falls within the regulatory or prohibited zone;
  - iii. Detailed Project Report (DPR) incorporating the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), hydrological studies, and assessment of impacts on river morphology;
  - iv. construction and waste/demolition management plan; and
  - v. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study, if conducted.

That in view of the aforesaid deficiencies, the Cell decided that the Project Proponent be directed to submit the requisite documents and clarifications, and that consideration of the proposal shall be subject to submission of the above information and approval of the competent authority.

A copy of the of the Minutes of the 13th Cell Meeting dated 29.12.2025 is marked and annexed herewith as '*Annexure I*'.



5. That it is respectfully submitted that, during the course of deliberations, the Cell categorically observed that construction of ghats along River Ganga and its tributaries mandates prior approval of the National Mission for Clean Ganga under Paragraph 42 of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016. In the present case, it was noted that substantial construction, reportedly to the extent of approximately 85%, had been undertaken without obtaining such mandatory prior approval.
6. That in view of the aforesaid observations and the apparent non-compliance with the statutory requirement, NMCG, in discharge of its regulatory and statutory functions, issued a Show Cause Notice dated 05.02.2026 to the Project Proponent. A copy of the Show Cause Notice dated 05.02.2026 is marked and annexed herewith as '*Annexure II*'.
7. That it is respectfully submitted that the matter is presently under consideration of NMCG, and further action shall be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Authorities Order, 2016, based on the response of the Project Proponent and examination of the documents to be submitted.
8. That in the view of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that the Respondent shall abide by all the order (s) and/ or direction (s) passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant case and render justice.



*[Signature]*  
DEPONENT

**VERIFICATION:**

I, 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 February 24, 2026.



*[Signature]*  
DEPONENT

Place: 24.02.2026  
Date: New Delhi



**ATTESTED**  
*[Signature]*  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
**24 FEB 2026**





# 515 राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन National Mission for Clean Ganga

Date: 12/01/2026

**Subject: Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Regulatory Cell held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at NMCG, New Delhi.**

A copy of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Regulatory Cell held through hybrid mode on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at National Mission for Clean Ganga, DOWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti is enclosed herewith for information please.

**Encl: As Above**

**Anup Kumar Srivastava  
Executive Director (Technical)**

**To**

1. Chief Engineer (P&DO), Central Water Commission, 901(S), Sewa Bhavan, RK Puram, New Delhi 110066
2. Deputy Director General (DDG), National Mission for Clean Ganga, Delhi
3. Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
4. The Project Director, State Mission for Clean Ganga, (SMCG), 6- Rana Pratap Marg, Hazaratganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226001
5. Project Director, SMCG UK, 117, Indira Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248001.
6. Consultant (Legal), National Mission for Clean Ganga, Delhi.

**Copy to Project proponents:**

1. Chairman, Ayodhya Development Authority, Civil Lines, Parikrama Marg, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh – 224001.
2. DG, Directorate of Tourism, Rajkiya Puroshtam Das Tandon Parvatan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226010.
3. District Magistrate Varanasi, Katchehry, Varanasi – 221002.
4. Executive engineer, Ken Betwa link Canal Construction Khand – I, Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh- 210427.
5. Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction, Northern Railway, Varanasi Uttar Pradesh-221002.
6. General Manager (Tech)/Project Director, National Highways Authority of India, PIU- Lucknow, 2/5, Vikrant Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010.
7. Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, Aranya Vikas Bhawan, 73, Nehru Road, Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand - 248001.

**Copy for kind information to: -**

1. PPS to DG, NMCG,
2. Shri Dinabandu Gouda, Sci 'F', CPCB
3. Shri Mithilesh Kumar, Unit Head, SMCG-UP

एन.एम.सी.जी., (जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग, भारत सरकार)  
प्रथम तल, मेजर ध्यान चन्द नेशनल स्टेडियम, इन्डिया गेट, नई दिल्ली-110002

NMCG, (Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India)  
First Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi-110002

File No. L-25012(11)/9/2025-LME NMCG-NATIONAL MISSION FOR CLEAN GANGA (Computer No. 296584)

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## Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> Cell Meeting for grant of approval from the NMCG, held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025

The thirtieth Cell meeting held on 29/12/2025 at NMCG, New Delhi in hybrid mode to consider six proposals. The gist of discussions and decisions taken therein are as under-

The list of the participants is attached as *Annexure-I*.

To begin with, Cell members were briefed that there have been 12 meetings of it so far, and so far 27 proposals have been cleared by the Competent authority based on its recommendations.

### **Proposal-1: Project for "Construction of 233 meters long Garwa ghat, on Ganga River front in Varanasi, U.P" (under section 42 of NMCG Authority order, 2016)**

- a) Uttar Pradesh Project Cooperation Ltd. (UPPCL) made a presentation on proposed construction of a Ghat 6 km upstream of Varanasi (in Ramnagar, Varanasi) on the left bank of River Ganga with following details-
- i. *The proposed works include construction of Garhwa Ghat over a length of 80 meters, construction of two gazebos and one palki, and construction of two changing rooms. The project also includes installation of one 16-meter high-mast lighting system with eight luminaires, installation of two 7-meter solar poles with a total of ten luminaires, construction of two bio-toilets, installation of four signage boards, installation of ten dustbins, and installation of two water kiosks.*
  - ii. *Earlier the project was for construction of 233 meters long Garwa ghat, which has now been reduced to 96 meter.*
  - iii. *It was informed that the EIA study has been performed but NMCG has not received any submission in this regard.*
  - iv. *It was also informed the matter is being dealt in NGT.*
- b) It was observed that NMCG submitted observations on DPR of 5 Ghat (including Gwara Ghat) dated 22/10/2016 and commented that "*The justification for the need of construction of New Ghats as informed by U.P. irrigation department seems to be acceptable.*" However, it was not executed at that time. Later, the work was reassigned to Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department with changed scope of work. for which UPPCL has submitted a fresh application dated 28.11.2025 seeking prior permission.
- c) The project proponent informed that the recommendations of the DGC had been obtained; however, no such recommendation is submitted to NMCG. Further, it was observed that no Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study has also been submitted to NMCG.
- d) It was informed that the 85% of the construction has been completed. The project proponent was advised to submit DPR including EMP, hydrological studies, effect of proposal on the river morphology, etc. It was also emphasized that no construction is allowed in the active flood plain. Accordingly, clarification must be obtained from irrigation department regarding the extent of flood plain and whether the construction falls in regulatory zone or prohibited zone.
- e) Having been asked about the point of water line in dry weather by CE (P&D), it was informed that the HFL is 73 m and Ghat is just 20 m away from the lowest water level (LWL). He further requested for submission of construction and waste demolition plan.



**Conclusion:**

The Cell asked the project proponent to submit: (i) recommendation of the DGC, (ii) clarification from the Irrigation Department regarding the extent of the active floodplain and confirmation as to whether the proposed/undertaken construction falls within the regulatory or prohibited zone; (iii) justification for undertaking approximately 85% of the construction without obtaining prior permission from NMCG; (iv) the Detailed Project Report (DPR), incorporating the Environmental Management Plan (EMP), hydrological studies, assessment of impacts on river morphology, and construction and waste/demolition management plan; (v) documentary evidence regarding recommendations of the DGC; (vi) the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study, if conducted.

The decision on the proposal shall be subject to submission of the above documents and approval of the competent authority.

**Proposal-2: Construction of barrage over Ken River, Pailani Tehsil, District Banda (U.P) under Ken-Betwa link project.**

The project proponent, Ken-Betwa Link canal construction Section-I, withdrew its proposal via email dated 23.12.2025.

**Proposal-3: Construction of Major Road Bridge over river Ghaghara in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh (under section 42 of NMCG Authority order, 2016)**

- a) The project proponent (National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Lucknow) delivered the presentation on the above-mentioned proposal, wherein.
  - i. The proposed construction is 40m downstream of existing Old sanjay setu 2 Lane bridge.
  - ii. Bridge Design: The project involves the construction of an over Road bridge with a total length of 1130 m from abutment to abutment, 8 piers with a spans of 1 x 75 m + 7 x 140 m + 1 x 75m. project lies in Seismic Zone-III.
  - iii. The hydraulic study submitted has been prepared considering River Ghaghara as an ungauged river.
  - iv. At proposed site linear waterway is 1130m, HFL is 107.616m and bed level of abutment is 112.858m, finished Road level is 118.881.
- b) Proponent informed that DPR has been approved by PAC-Project Appraisal Committee, however, Vetted DPR is not submitted to NMCG.
- c) Proponent was advised to conduct a detailed hydraulic study based on observed data by a reputed institution including cumulative impact of the proposed bridge on the river regime, taking into account the existing Upstream and Downstream bridges as baseline, backwater effect and scour analysis and river training works required, if any.
- d) CE (P&DO), CWC asked for submission of vetted Environment Management Plan (EMP) including labor camps, disposal sites, construction/casting yards, waste generation & disposal method, etc. It shall be ensured that active floodplain zone shall not be encroached upon by these activities.
- e) Proponent was also asked to seek permission from State Irrigation department, and submit it to NMCG.

**Conclusion:**

The Cell recommends that the proposal be resubmitted as a fresh application after incorporating the above observations, along with the Vetted DPR, EMP and the requisite permission from the State Irrigation Department.

**Proposal-4: Renewal of Permission for "Development of Ram Anubhav Kendra near Guptar Ghat, Ayodhya" for 07 Years (under Para 6(3))**

- a) The project proponent (National Highways Authority of India, PIU-Lucknow) delivered the presentation on the above-mentioned proposal, wherein:
- i. NMCG had earlier accorded a conditional NOC dated 16/01/2024 for "Development of Ram Anubhav Kendra near Guptar Ghat in Saryu River, Ayodhya" for the period January–May 2024 under Section 6(3) of the Ganga Authorities Notification, 2016.
  - ii. Permission expired in May 2024 and accordingly renewal of permission for period of 7 years altogether has been sought to ensure continuity, stability, certainty and feasibility of the project.
  - iii. The project spreads over 75 Acre area in Saryu river 500 acres' island area with facilities for visitors, including food and beverages, yoga and cultural activities, along with additional development of a natural bio-village and yoga spots over 50 acres.
  - iv. The project involves construction of a temporary structure, operation and maintenance of minimum 108 Huts/Tents and the occupancy of 250 during night time and 500 persons during daytime.
  - v. 100 KLD STP is being installed as per approval from UP Pollution Board, and treated water shall be used for irrigation, and Solid waste shall be carried out to the designated disposal site as per Nagar Nigam.
  - vi. permission to retain essential temporary structures, namely MS platforms, huts, toilets, kitchen and road network, on the island to avoid yearly dismantling and re-erection, citing non-submergence during the last 15 years.
- b) The Chief Engineer (P&DO), CWC observed that the proposed site is located on a riverine island. He emphasized that a detailed study assessing the erosion profile of previous years is required and sought documentary evidence to ascertain the historical and present status of the island. In response, the project proponent submitted that, as per the recommendations of the ADA during the previous NOC, a buffer zone of 100 m was maintained. It was stated that the earlier permission was accorded only for a limited duration majorly because of geo-morphologically dynamic nature of river islands.
- c) The Chief Engineer (P&DO), CWC further enquired whether the proposed barrage is located upstream or downstream of the project site. He opined that any alteration in river stages can result in significant changes in river morphology, thereby reinforcing the necessity of conducting the proposed study. He also sought clarification regarding the nature of plantation undertaken at the site and emphasized that it should be strictly of riparian species. The project proponent informed that the plantation was carried out under the supervision of the ADA.
- d) The Unit Head (Knowledge & Planning), SMCG–Uttar Pradesh informed that the compliance report of the previous project was submitted to the State Ganga Committee (SGC), and no non-compliance was observed therein.
- e) Scientist 'C', NMCG observed that the proposed STP capacity of 100 KLD appears disproportionately high in comparison to the projected footfall.



- f) The Executive Director (Technical) stated that this proposal is to be treated as a fresh proposal. Further, in view of the active floodplain guidelines now in force, the project proponent was advised to ascertain the active floodplain demarcation from the Irrigation Department for determination of the active flood plain zone also.
- g) It was further clarified that all constructions should be purely temporary in nature, and a decision with respect to the permissible number of huts and permission for operation period a will be taken by considering the morphological aspects of the river.

**Conclusion:**

The Cell decided to consider the current proposal as a fresh proposal. The project proponent was directed to obtain and submit authenticated active floodplain demarcation from the Irrigation Department for determination of the applicable buffer zone, in place of the earlier 100 m criterion, in accordance with the prevailing active floodplain guidelines. The Cell further stipulated that all proposed constructions shall be purely temporary in nature, and the permissible number of huts and operational activity should be restricted to limited period and for restricted number of visitors.

**Proposal- 5: Construction of a New Rail-cum-Road Bridge over River Ganga, 50 meters downstream of the existing Malviya Bridge near Kashi Station, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**

- a) The project proponent [Northern Railways, Varanasi] delivered the presentation on the above-mentioned proposal, which involves construction of bridge over
- i. *The project involves the construction of a new Rail Cum Road Bridge with a total length of 1074.6 m from abutment to abutment. The proposed bridge will carry 4 BG rail lines and a 6-lane highway with footpaths on both sides and gangways in the middle across the river. At the selected site, the overall bridge length will be 1074.6 m, comprising 11 piers with spans of 8 × 108.5 m and 2 × 103.3 m. The proposed project traverses from 25°19'48.71" to 25°18'35.35" N Latitude and 83°01'09.31" N to 85°03'28.57" E Longitude at an elevation ranging from 78 m to 74 m above sea level.*
  - ii. *The hydraulic parameters indicate that the design discharge is 47,524.81 m<sup>3</sup>/s, the design High Flood Level (HFL) is 73.901 m, and the Low Water Level (LWL) is 58.101 m. The maximum velocity of water flow is 3.811 m/sec, with a scour depth of 47.57 m below HFL and a silt factor of 1.27. The proposed site falls under seismic zone III.*
  - iii. *The finished Rail Deck level of the bridge is 83.026 m and the Finished Road Level is 92.300 m, while the bottom of girder soffit level is 80.600 m. The proposed bridge bed level varies from 45.603 m to 80.542 m, and the reference chainages range from 0+000 to 1+100 km. The proposed project cost is Rs. 2464.46 Crore.*
  - iv. *Clearance/No Objections were obtained from various authority stakeholders, National Monument Authority (NMA), Archaeology Survey of India (ASI), Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWA), Public Works Department (PWD) and Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (UPJN), Further, permissions obtained for utility shifting from Varanasi Smart City, Telecommunication (BSNL, JIO-Reliance), Electricity Board and GAIL India Limited.*
- b) The ED (Technical), NMCG inquired whether the existing bridge would be dismantled after the construction of the proposed new bridge and also sought clarification on the status of permission from the State Irrigation department. The Project Proponent clarified that the existing road bridge will be discontinued, whereas the existing railway bridge will continue to remain in operation. Further, the Proponent informed that permission from the State Irrigation Department was



considered not applicable, as the proposed project is located on a channel not influenced by any barrage or weir.

- c) CE (P&DO), CWC: The CE (P&DO), CWC emphasized that the river/channel is under the administrative control of the State Irrigation Department; therefore, obtaining permission/NOC from the State Irrigation Department is mandatory. Further, the CE (P&DO), CWC advised the Project Proponent to prepare and submit a detailed Riverine Impact Mitigation Plan for the construction phase and suggested that a monitoring committee/team be constituted at the SMCG and DGC levels to oversee and monitor project activities during the construction phase.

**Conclusion:**

The Cell decided to recommend the proposal, subject to submissions of the EMP elaborating details about the C&D Plan and permission from irrigation Dept. illustrating city protection works, if required. Further, it was recommended that all construction activity should be monitored by DGC to ensure no construction activity is undertaken in the active flood plain zone.

**Any other Matter: Discussion on "Use of reserved forest land for collection of minor mineral from Chandrabhaga River, Tehri Garhwal" for stage II approval from MoEF & CC**

- a) NMCG received this proposal for its comments. MoEF & CC has granted 'in-principal' (Stage-I) approval for the non-forestry use of 190.0 hectares of reserved forest land under the Narendra Nagar Forest Division, Dehradun District, Uttarakhand, for this purpose, in favor of UAFDC. This approval is subject to several conditions, including "Condition A - Conditions to be complied with prior to handing over the forest land by the State Forest Department and compliance to be submitted before Stage-II approval." Specifically, Condition A(ii) mandates that "Comments from the National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) on the above-stated proposal must be obtained prior to Stage-II approval.
- b) It was clarified that the comments are sought not for change in land use for non-forestry activity instead it was for mining of mineral from Chandrabhaga river.
- c) The Chief Engineer (P&DO), Central Water Commission (CWC), enquired about the total quantity of extractable material proposed from the river. The project proponent informed that the total extractable quantity is 462,375.97 m<sup>3</sup>, estimated based on an assessment of the hydrological profile and flow characteristics of the river. The Chief Engineer further advised that the project proponent should submit:
- details of elephant corridors in the project area,
  - information regarding the location of the crushing site, to enable the State to ascertain that the site does not fall within the active floodplain of the river, and
  - a replenishment study to assess whether the proposed riverbed mining activities would adversely affect river morphology.
- He also sought clarification on the rationale for proposing mining activities along the entire stretch of the river.
- d) The Chief Engineer (P&DO), CWC enquired about the total quantity of extractable material from the river. It was informed that the total extractable quantity is 462,375.97 m<sup>3</sup>, which has been estimated based on an assessment of the hydrological profile and flow characteristics of the river. He further suggested that the project proponent should submit details of elephant corridors and information regarding the crushing site, to enable the State to ascertain that the site does not fall within the active floodplain of the river, along with a replenishment study to assess whether riverbed mining activities are adversely affecting the river morphology. He further enquired why the mining is carried out in the entire stretch of the river.

# 521

- e) The project proponent stated that the proposed activity is not intended for commercial mining but is aimed at channelization of the river. However, the proposal submitted does not explicitly reflect this objective and, instead, appears to indicate conventional mining activities.

**Conclusion:**

After detailed deliberations, the Cell decided that the observations and comments shall be compiled and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) for further consideration and necessary action.

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**Cell Members**

1. Shri. Nalin Kumar Srivastava, DDG, NMCG
2. Dr. D.P. Mathuria, Chief Engineer (P & DO), CWC
3. Shri. Anup Kumar Srivastava, ED (T), NMCG
4. Shri. Ishwar Singh, Consultant (Legal Expert), NMCG

**CPCB**

5. Shri. Raj K. Singh, Scientist, CPCB

**SMCG UP**

6. Shri. Mithilesh Kumar Mishra, Unit Head (Knowledge & Planning), SMCG-UP

**SMCG UK**

7. Shri. Akshay, Environmental Specialist, SMCG – UK

**UKFDC**

8. Ms. Usha Puri, DLM (UKFDS)
9. Shri Praveen
10. Shri K.P., Consultant (Himalyan Paryavaran)

**NHAI-PIU Lucknow & Barabanki**

11. Shri. Shriram, Manager (T), NHAI
12. Dr. Mahaveer Saini, Env. Expert, Theme Eng. Services

**Northern Railway- Varanasi.**

13. Shri. Rocky Tuhar, Dy. Chief Engineer (Const)
14. Shri. Ashwani Kumar, Senior Section Engineer (Works)

**UP-Tourism**

15. Smt. Deepika Singh, RTO
16. Shri. Suresh Rana, Tourism Officer
17. Shri Dinesh Kumar, JD UP toursim

**UPPCL-Lucknow**

18. Shri. Suresh Ch Yadav, General Manager
19. Manvendra Singh, PM, UPPCL Unit -3 Varanasi

**NMCG**

20. Dr. Anjali, Sci 'C', NMCG
21. Dr. Samarth Sharma, RO, NMCG
22. Shri. Manikandan P, PO, NMCG

523

फा.सं/F.No L-25012(11)/9/2025-LME NMCG

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय  
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण विभाग  
राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन

\*\*\*\*\*

प्रथम तल,  
मेजर ध्यानचंद, राष्ट्रीय स्टेडियम,  
इंडिया गेट, नई दिल्ली- 110002  
दिनांक: 02/02/2026

**Subject:** Show Cause Notice for Undertaking "Construction of 233 meters long Garwa ghat on Ganga River front in Varanasi, U.P" without Prior Approval of NMCG - reg.

**Ref:** - NGT O.A 1088/2024 dated 23/01/2025

With reference to the above O.A., and in connection with the subject proposal, it is observed that:

1. Whereas, during the deliberations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Cell meeting, the Project Proponent informed that the subject project has reportedly achieved approximately 85% physical completion. A copy of the minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> Cell meeting is attached herewith for ready reference pl.
2. Whereas, the Project Proponent could not clarify/establish whether the project site falls within the active floodplain or beyond the demarcated floodplain boundary of the concerned river stretch, based on Irrigation department input;
3. Whereas, construction of ghats along the River Ganga and its tributaries requires prior approval of NMCG under Section 42 of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, and no such approval has been made available in the present case; and whereas it prima facie appears that the ghat has been constructed without obtaining this mandatory approval.

Above in view, the project proponent is hereby directed to: -

- a) Explain/show cause within one-month from the issue of this notice for failing to adhere to the regulatory provisions of seeking **PRIOR** permission from NMCG under Section 42 of the Authorities Notification, 2016, before undertaking construction of this Ghat.
- b) Clarify whether the construction is in the active flood plain/zone (based on 1 in 5-yr return period flood) as prescribed in the Technical Guidelines issues


Page 1 of 2

524

by the Central Water Commission (CWC) in July, 2025 or beyond it, based on study/outcome carried out by State Irrigation department.

It is further stated that in case no reply is received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that you have nothing further to state in the matter, and appropriate action shall be taken as per rules, without any further correspondence.

**Encl:** As above

  
**(Rajeev Kr. Mital)**  
**Director General, NMCG**

**To,**

DG, Directorate of Tourism, Rajkiya Puroshtram Das Tandon Parvatan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226010

*Copy to:*

1. District Magistrate and Chairman, District Ganga committee, Varanasi, Katchehry, Varanasi - 221002
2. Project Director, SMCG-UP, Plot no. 18, Sector 07, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow- 226001