

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
(PRINCIPAL BENCH)

OA No 1118/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

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

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Deponent

Place: New Delhi

Date: 8.08.2025

Through Advocate
Gigi. C. Advocate

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**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI
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Additional affidavit on behalf of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)- Respondent No 3 & Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) Respondent No 4, in compliance of the order dated 08.04.2025 in the aforesaid matter

Most Respectfully, I, Anup Kumar Srivastava, aged 58 years, working as Executive Director (Technical) in the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), D/o WR, RD&GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti do hereby solemnly affirm, and declare as under:

1. That the deponent is working as Executive Director (Technical) in NMCG and am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of information derived from the official records, and am competent to submit the present affidavit on behalf of the answering Respondents, i.e., NMCG & MoJS, Respondent No 3 & 4, respectively;
2. That this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 08.04.2025 had, inter-alia, directed the answering respondent to submit fresh affidavit **disclosing the speed of completion of the projects and details of such project.**
3. That, in the above context, it is submitted that the Government of India launched the "Namami Gange Programme(NGP) "in 2014-15 for five years, extended to March 2021 (Phase-I). The mission program /NGP was further extended from April 2021 to March 2026 (Phase-II), to clean & rejuvenate the river Ganga and other small rivers in the Ganga basin in a holistic manner with a basin approach along with a diverse set of interventions;



Anup Kumar Srivastava Page 1 of 8
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4. That it is submitted that in the formative years, the work relating to the prevention, control and abatement of pollution of river Ganga was initiated under the National Ganga River Basin Management Authority (NGRBA) constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC). During the initial years of the Namami Gange Programme (NGP), pace of implementation of program was a bit slow for a variety of reasons, such as quality of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), delay occurred in handing over of land by the concerned State Governments for the constructions of the Sewage Treatment Plants and other related infrastructure, updation of data, weak institutional set up etc. These initial gaps were progressively covered up by taking targeted measures detailed hereunder:
- During the first few years, the focus was on gearing up the preparatory activities, such as; improvement in quality of preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), thorough scrutiny and appraisal of DPRs through third parties, building capacity at State level authorities, and thus putting in place a robust implementation & monitoring mechanism;
 - The Implementation of the infrastructure projects including STPs for ensuring the treatment of the sewage effluents in conformity of the stipulated norms, started in full earnest after completion of preparatory activities;
 - The disbursement of funds under Namami Gange Programme (NGP) has increased substantially thereafter. Details of fund disbursement under NGP were provided in the affidavit filed earlier in April, 2025.
5. That it is submitted that further, details with regard to the major initiatives/ projects undertaken by NMCG for pollution abatement of River Ganga is being submitted in the following paras:

A. Sewerage Project

Sewerage infrastructure projects are essential to address the single largest cause of pollution in the River Ganga—untreated sewage. Habitations along the river contribute nearly 70% of the total pollution load, primarily from domestic and industrial wastewater.

To restore the river's health and achieve the objective of 'Nirmal Dhara' (unpolluted flow), the creation and rehabilitation of sewage treatment infrastructure has been accorded top priority under the Namami Gange Programme (NGP). These projects cover



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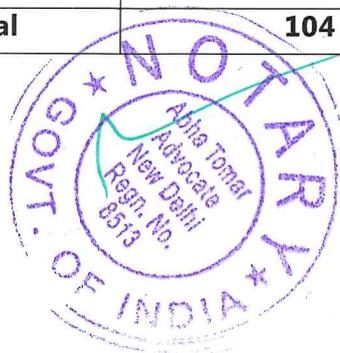
both the main stem of the river Ganga and its tributaries, reflecting a basin-wide strategy. Table below provides the no. of number of sewerage projects sanctioned during three phases of NGP for the purpose of estimating speed of the projects sanctioned and completed during various NGPs.

Table 1.1: Sewerage projects sanctioned and completed during 2011-2015

State	NGRBA (Till March 2015)			
	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Project Completed	STP Capacity Sanctioned (MLD)	STP capacity Created (MLD)
Uttarakhand	16	3	39	18
Uttar Pradesh	15	-	336	105
Bihar	12	-	222	-
Jharkhand	1	-	12	-
West Bengal	6	-	94	-
Delhi	1	-	950	-
Haryana	2	-	145	-
Total	53	3	1798	123

Table 1.2: Sewerage projects sanctioned and completed during 2015-2021

State	NGM-I (April-2015 to March-2021)			
	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Project Completed	STP Capacity Sanctioned (MLD)	STP capacity Created (MLD)
Uttarakhand	19	27	125.5	135.17
Uttar Pradesh	36	20	1317.56	235
Bihar	18	3	409.5	140
Jharkhand	2	1	18.5	12
West Bengal	17	3	774.77	60.23
Delhi	10	2	434.5	-
Haryana	-	2	-	145
Himachal Pradesh	1	-	1.72	-
Rajasthan	1	-	36	-
Total	104	58	3118.05	727.4



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Table 1.3: Sewerage projects sanctioned and completed during 2021-2025

State	NGM-II (April-2021 to April-2025)			
	No. of Projects Sanctioned	Project Completed	STP Capacity Sanctioned (MLD)	STP capacity Created (MLD)
Uttarakhand	7	6	79.65	31.33
Uttar Pradesh	28	28	1090.23	872.96
Bihar	10	18	222.1	253
Jharkhand	2	1	232	3.5
West Bengal	13	11	228.2	405.52
Delhi	-	7	-	1268
Himachal Pradesh	-	1	-	1.72
Rajasthan	-	-	-	36
Madhya Pradesh	3	-	237.38	-
Total	63	72	2089.56	2872.03

An analysis of data tabulated in above three tabular charts, shows that- Projects sanctioned per year increased from about **13/year (2011-2015)** to about **17/year (2015-2021)**, stabilizing at roughly **16/year (2021-2025)**; and Project completions rose significantly from **0.75/year (2011-2015)** to **9.6/year (2015-2021)** and **18/year (2021-2025)**, reflecting improved planning and execution through active coordination between NMCG and State-level agencies.

B. Afforestation Development Project

Afforestation in the Ganga Basin is a critical component of river rejuvenation under the **Namami Gange Programme**, aimed at restoring the ecological health of the river and its tributaries. The Ganga Basin, covering over 26% of India's landmass and supporting 43% of its population, faces severe deforestation, land degradation, and declining biodiversity — all contributing to pollution, erosion, and reduced river flow. Under NGP, a total of 33,024 hectares have been afforested at an expenditure of ₹414 crores.



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Outcome Achieved

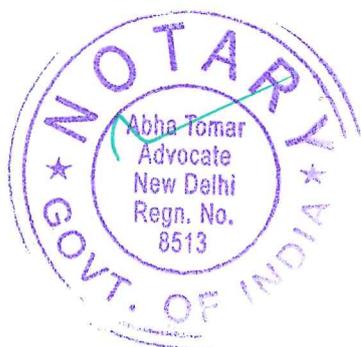
- Reduced soil erosion and siltation in the river.
- Improved groundwater recharge and base flow.
- Enhanced biodiversity and ecological balance.
- Created green buffers for pollution control.
- Strengthened climate resilience and carbon sequestration.

Table 3: Details of Afforestation projects sanctioned and completed since 2011

Afforestation Development Project Status						
State	NGRBA (Till March 2015)		NGM-I (April-2015 to March-2021)		NGM-II (April-2021 to April-2025)	
	No. of Projects Sanctioned	No. of Projects Completed	No. of Projects Sanctioned	No. of Projects Completed	No. of Projects Sanctioned	No. of Projects Completed
Uttarakhand	-	-	5	5	2	1
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	6	6	2	1
Bihar	-	-	5	5	2	1
Jharkhand	-	-	5	5	2	1
West Bengal	-	-	5	5	2	1
Total	0	0	26	26	10	5

C. Industrial Pollution and Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs)

For industrial pollution abatement, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has identified the industrial clusters and supported them through finance to sectors like tannery, textile effluent, and others. Out of 3 industrial projects of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), i.e., Jajmau CETP (20 MLD), Banther CETP (4.5 MLD) and Mathura CETP (6.25 MLD) sanctioned by NMCG, the Mathura CETP (6.5 MLD) and Jajmau CETP (20 MLD) projects have already been completed.



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D. Improvement in Polluted River Stretches

Measurable outcomes of the implementation of the NGM is provided through the reports of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on pollution assessment of rivers of India. As per the report, the Priority River Stretches (PRSs) on the river Ganga, based on the assessment carried out in 2022 (using 2019 and 2021 data), are as under:

- Uttarakhand does not fall under polluted stretches (BOD < 3 mg/l);
- In Uttar Pradesh, stretches from Farrukhabad to Allahabad and Mirzapur to Ghazipur fall under Priority Class V (BOD 3–6 mg/l);
- In Bihar, stretches along Buxar, Patna, Fatwah, and Bhagalpur fall under Priority Class IV (BOD 6–10 mg/l);
- Jharkhand does not fall under polluted stretches (BOD < 3 mg/l);
- In West Bengal, the stretch from Behrampur to Haldia falls under Priority Class IV (BOD 6–10 mg/l).

Further, the value of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), which is an indicator of river health, has been found to be within the acceptable limits of the notified primary bathing water quality criteria and is satisfactory to support the ecosystem of the river along almost the entire stretch of the river Ganga.

E. Biodiversity Conservation & Wetland Management

- The population of Dolphins in the river Ganga has shown a marked increase over the past decade. From an estimated baseline of 2,500–3,000 individuals in 2009, the population rose to approximately 3,500 in 2015 and further to around 6,327 individuals as per the nationwide survey conducted during 2021–2023. This represents more than a twofold increase since 2009. In the Ganga basin, the 2021–2023 assessment across 17 tributaries confirmed dolphin presence in multiple rivers where they were previously unrecorded, such as the Rupnarayan, Girwa, Kauriyala, Babai, Rapti, Bagmati, Mahananda, Ken, Betwa, and Sind.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Seven Biodiversity Parks in seven districts (Mirzapur, Bulandshahar, Hapur, Budaun, Ayodhya, Bijnore and Pratapgarh) of Uttar Pradesh and 5 priority wetlands in Uttar Pradesh (3), Bihar (1) and Jharkhand (1) have been sanctioned;
- A total of 160 lakhs of Indian Major Carp (IMC) fingerlings have been reared in the Ganga since 2017 to conserve fish biodiversity and prey base for river Dolphins, and

ensure the livelihood of fishers in the Ganga basin under the special project implemented by Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI);

- d. Science-based species restoration programme, rescue, and rehabilitation programme for aquatic species like Dolphins, Otters, Hilsa, Turtles, and Ghariyal in collaboration with Wild Life Institute of India (WII), Dehradun and State Forest Department, have shown marked improvements in biodiversity with increased sightings of Dolphins, Otters, Hilsa, Turtles, and other riverine species;
- e. Recognizing wetlands as vital carbon sinks and biodiversity hotspots, NMCG has prioritized their restoration to enhance ecological services and climate resilience. As of mid-2025, five wetland restoration projects have been sanctioned at Kalewada Jheel (Muzaffarnagar), Namiya Dah (Prayagraj), Reoti Dah (Ballia), Udhwa Lake (Sahibganj), and Nathmalpur–Bhagad Wetland (Bhojpur). These projects aim to improve hydrological regimes, restore native biodiversity, manage sediments and invasive species, and foster eco-sensitive landscaping with local community involvement.

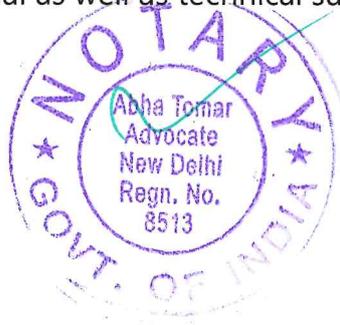
F. E-flow Management

NMCG successfully implemented the minimum e-flow norms notified in October 2018, ensuring continuous environmental flow in the river Ganga. Regular compliance is being effectively monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

G. Award & Recognition

The United Nations (UN) has recognized Namami Gange initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred River Ganga as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships to revive the natural world in the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Montreal, Canada on 14th December 2022, the World Restoration Day.

6. That it is humbly submitted that the NMCG, in accordance to the provisions of the River Ganga Authority Order, 2016, has been pursuing the 'Namami Gange Programme' (NGP), an Integrated River Ganga Conservation Mission, thereby to assist the Ganga basin State Governments in their efforts for effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga in the form of providing financial as well as technical support.



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7. It is further submitted for the kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal that the progress and performance of projects sanctioned under the Namami Gange Programme (NGP) by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) are being regularly and systematically monitored. This is undertaken in coordination with the respective State authorities and executing agencies, through the State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG). Periodic reviews are conducted, and necessary advisories are issued to expedite implementation and ensure that project outcomes are achieved in conformity with prescribed environmental norms.
8. It is also pertinent to submit that project progress related to river rejuvenation and pollution abatement is being overseen at the central level by the Central Monitoring Committee (CMC), chaired by the Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The Director General, NMCG, along with Secretaries of concerned departments, senior officials from State Governments/UT Administrations, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and other relevant agencies participate in periodic review meetings convened by the CMC to ensure timely execution and compliance with environmental standards.
9. That in view of the above it is humbly submitted that the facts and information submitted herein above may kindly be consider by the Hon'ble Tribunal and appropriate order/direction may be passed in the matter.


DeponentDated: 8th August, 2025

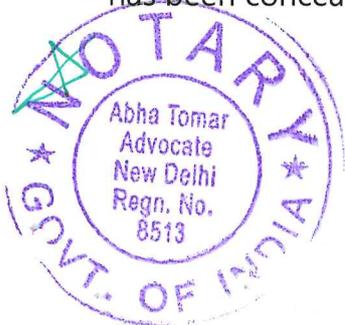
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VERIFICATION

8 AUG 2025

Verified at New Delhi on this day 8th August, 2025 that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and nothing is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.



Certified that the foregoing statement
was declared on solemn affirmation
before me which has been read over
to the deponent who has admitted

It as correct

Notary DELHI

8 AUG 2025


Deponent

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