

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1158 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Indus river dolphins in troubled waters" appearing in Mongabay dated 15.08.2024

INDEX

S.NO	PARTICULARS	PAGE
1.	Affidavit on behalf of Ministry of Jal Shakti, through its Secretary (Respondent No.4)	4

Place: New Delhi

Date: 04.02.2026

Through



Gigi C George Advocate

Standing counsel (UOI)

NGT

Ch. No. 457, Lawyers Block, DHC

Gigicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in

M.9810625315

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
Original Application No.1158/2024

News Item titled "Indus River dolphins in troubled waters" appearing in Mongabay dated 15.08.2024.

Versus

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change &
 Ors. ...Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
THROUGH ITS SECRETARY (RESPONDENT NO.4)

I, Mahesh Kumar Kashyap, S/o Late Deo Narayan Lal Baranwal aged 55 Years, in capacity of Under Secretary to Govt. of India in National River Conservation Directorate, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti do hereby 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 Respondent No. 4 i.e. 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 12.09.2024 in the instant Original Application, Ministry of Jal Shakti has

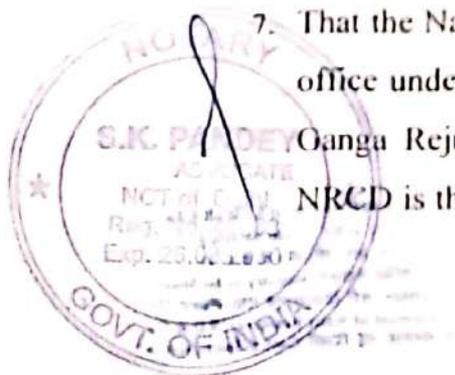


Mahesh Kumar Kashyap

श्री कश्यप / MAHESH KUMAR KASHYAP
 अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
 जल शक्ति विभाग / M.R.C.D.
 जल संचयन विभाग / Ministry of Jal Shakti
 विभाग, पानी विकास एवं पंचांग विभाग
 Department of Water Resources, R.D & G.R.
 नया दिल्ली, नई दिल्ली / Govt. of India, New Delhi

been listed as Respondent No.4. Thereby, the reply is made in the succeeding paragraphs.

4. That the subject News item is related to reduction in number of Indus River Dolphins in River Beas due to reduced water allegedly on account of construction of irrigation barrages, hydropower projects, etc. The news item further mentions that the main threats include water availability and pollution, worsened by upstream hydropower projects causing fluctuating water levels.
5. That for conservation of rivers, Ministry of Jal Shakti is supplementing efforts of the States/UTs by providing financial and technical assistance for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of the rivers/tributaries in Ganga basin through Central Sector Scheme of *Namami Gange* and Centrally Sponsored Scheme of *National River Conservation Plan* (NRCP) for other rivers. Under NRCP, pollution abatement schemes for conservation of Satluj and Beas rivers in Punjab were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs.717.32 crore, and sewage treatment capacity of 648 MLD has been created so far.
6. That the proposals for pollution abatement works in towns along identified polluted river stretches are received from States/UTs from time to time for consideration under NRCP and sanctioned based on prioritization, conformity with the scheme guidelines, commitments of the concerned States/UTs to bear their shares towards capital assets, availability of plan funds, etc. As regards operation and maintenance of the assets created under NRCP, it remains the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Urban Local Bodies.
7. That the National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) is an attached office under the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The primary mandate of NRCD is the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National



Handwritten signature

श्री. महेश कुमार कश्यप / MAHESH KUMAR KASHYAP
 अधीन सचिव / Under Secretary
 जल संसाधन विभाग / M. S. C. O.
 जल संसाधन विभाग / Ministry of Jal Shakti
 जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संसाधन विभाग
 Department of Water Resources, RD & GR

measures is essential for maintaining riverine integrity and for the protection of endangered species, including the Indus River Dolphins.

15. That the State Governments of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, being the project authorities and statutory custodians for river management, pollution control and wildlife protection within their respective jurisdictions, are responsible for implementation of appropriate measures as per law. The Ministry shall continue to facilitate inter-State coordination, data sharing and policy guidance, as and when required.
16. That in the light of the above submissions, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent, i.e., Ministry of Jal Shakti, 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 4th day of February, 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.



04 FEB 2026

(Signature)

DEPONENT

ATTENDED
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA
(Signature)

श. कुमार कश्यप / MAHESH KUMAR KASHYAP
अवर सचिव / Under Secretary
एन. डी. डी. / N. D. D.
जल संसाधन विभाग / Ministry of Jal Shakti
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संवर्धन विभाग
Department of Water Resources, R.D. & G.R.
एन. डी. डी., नई दिल्ली / Govt. of India, New Delhi

04 FEB 2026