

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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Respondent NMCG

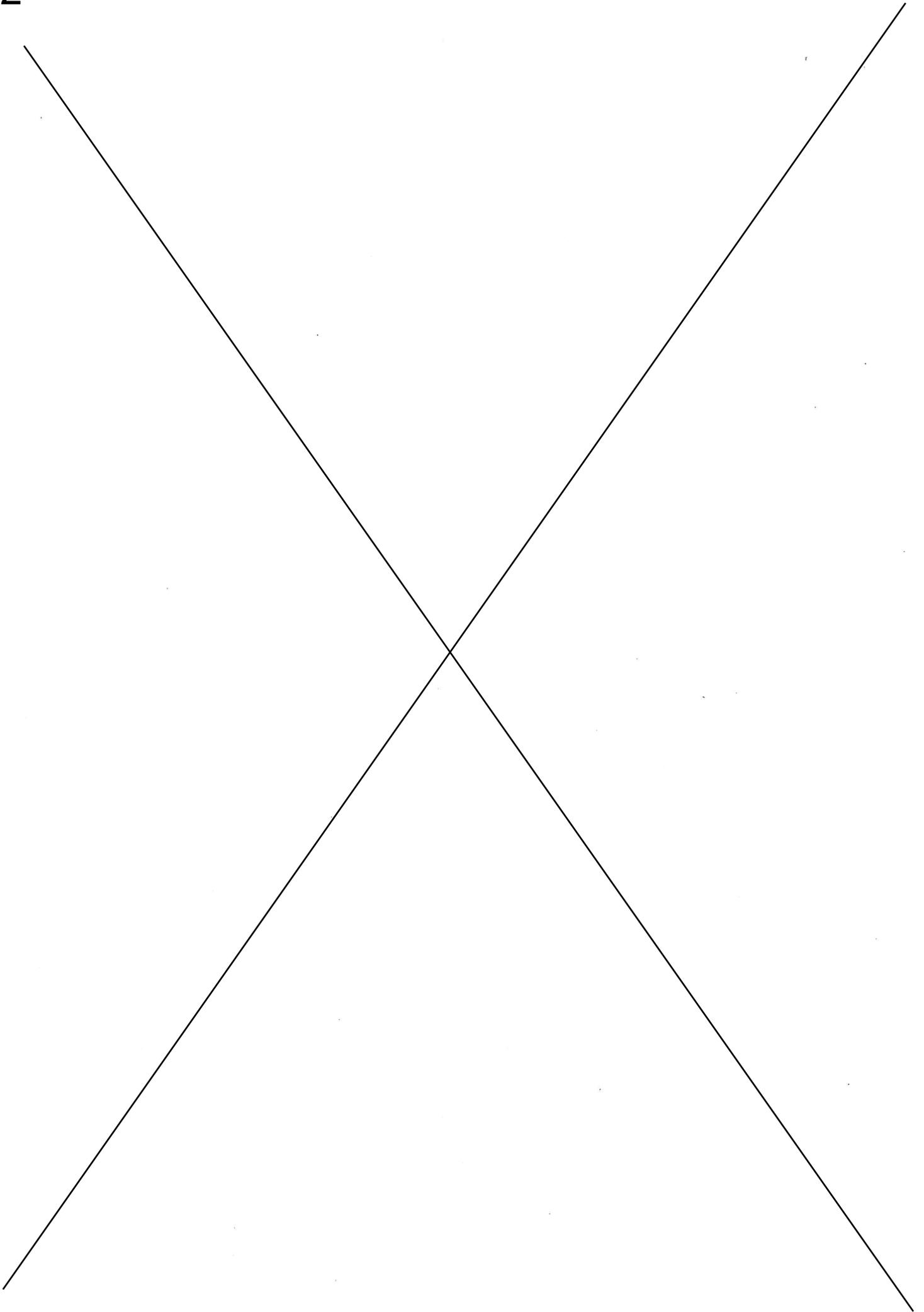
Date: 07.04. 2025

Place: New Delhi


Through Counsel

Gigi.C. George
Advocate

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

OA No 1118/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

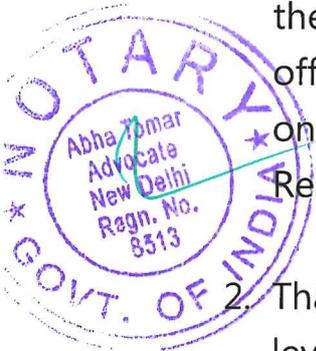
**In Re: News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags,
extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in
The Hindu dated 19.08.2024**

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 30.08.2024 in the aforesaid matter

Most Respectfully, I, Anup Kumar Srivastava, aged 57 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 is 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 NMCG, it is one of the authorities constituted, at Central
level, and established under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation,
Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016 [River
Ganga Authorities Order, 2016] 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



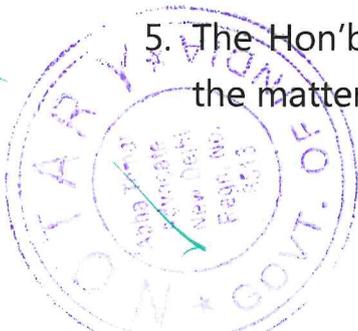
2-

rejuvenate the River Ganga and for regulating matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The NMCG is under the administrative control of the MoJS, Respondent No 4.

3. That 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.
4. The Hon'ble NGT has taken suo motu cognizance of the above subject OA, based on the News Item appeared in the newspaper Hindu dated 19.08. 2024 under the caption "Clean Ganga Mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" inter-alia slow pace of expenditure on river-cleaning projects, being executed in various States under the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG). The reasons attributed under the said article states variety of projects have been commissioned since 2015 as a part of the "Namami Gange Mission" the costliest and the most critical in the development of sewage-management infrastructure.

The news item mentions that Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of projects and the authorities there upon being questioned about the slow pace of expenditure responded that that ₹15.16 Cr have been spent on six projects in Jaunpur, Kasganj, Varanasi, Bareilly, Salori and Agra and that Payment amounting to ₹25 Cr are still under process.

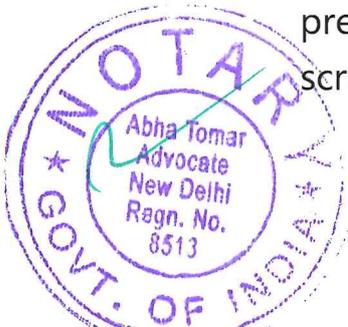
5. The Hon'ble NGT has impleaded the following Respondents in the matter:



अनूप कुमार शिवस्तवा / Anup Kumar Srivastava
 कार्यकारी निदेशक (तकनीकी) / Executive Director (Technical)
 राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन / National Mission for Clean Ganga
 जल संभारन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
 Dept. of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
 जल शक्ति मंत्रालय / Ministry of Jal Shakti
 नई दिल्ली / Govt. of India, New Delhi

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- i. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi 110032.
 - ii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (MoEF & CC) New Delhi – 110 003.
 - iii. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), New Delhi- 110002.
 - iv. Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS), New Delhi – 110001.
6. That it is submitted that the Government of India launched the NGP in 2014-15 for five years, extended to March 2021 (Phase-I). The mission/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.
7. 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. The gaps were covered up by taking measures detailed hereunder:
- a) 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



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capacity at State level authorities, and thus putting in place a robust implementation & monitoring mechanism;

- b) 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;
- c) The disbursement of funds under Namami Gange Programme (NGP) has increased substantially thereafter. As is evident from *Table-1/Fig.1*, the disbursement to 5 Ganga main-stem States between FY 2011-12 to 2013-14 which was *Rs 422.41 Cr* rose to *Rs 7,764.15 Cr* between FY 2014-15 to 2020-21. Further, disbursement (FY 2021-22 to 15th March 2025) under Phase-II for the Main 5 Ganga Stem States has reached to *Rs. 7,128.59 Cr*. The Phase II is operational till 2026, and therefore, disbursement during this phase will further go up;
- d) Thus, while average annual disbursement under Phase-I was recorded as *Rs. 1,109 Cr*, the same has risen to *Rs. 1,782 Cr* under Phase-II for the Main 5 Ganga Stem States, an increase of 61% in average annual disbursement during Phase-II as compared to Phase-I of the Namami Gange Programme; (*Fig.2*)
- e) Thus, the disbursement figures are in complete disagreement with the News covered in the said Newspaper.



अनूप कुमार श्रीवास्तव/Anup Kumar Srivastava
कार्यकारी निदेशक (तकनीकी)/Executive Director (Technical)
राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन/National Mission for Clean Ganga
जल संचयन नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
Dept. of Water Resour. & River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय /Ministry of Jal Shakti
भारत सरकार नई दिल्ली /Govt. of India New Delhi

Table 1: Disbursements from 2011-12 to 15th March 2025 by NMCG to the States/UT is tabulated below:

Amount in Rs. Cr.

No.	State	NGRBA (2011-14)	Namami Gange - I (2014-2021)	Namami Gange -II (2021- till 15th March 2025)
5 Ganga Main Stem States				
		(A)	(B)	(C)
1	Uttarakhand	29.9	915.55	447.19
2	Uttar Pradesh	254.84	3551.85	3358.76
3	Bihar	81.40	2034.02	2337.81
4	Jharkhand	6.76	236.83	135.31
5	West Bengal	49.51	1025.90	849.52
Sub-Total (I)		422.41	7764.15	7128.59

Note – The above figures are net of refund. These figures may undergo slight variation upon reconciliation of amount based on submission of Utilization Certificates by various agencies.

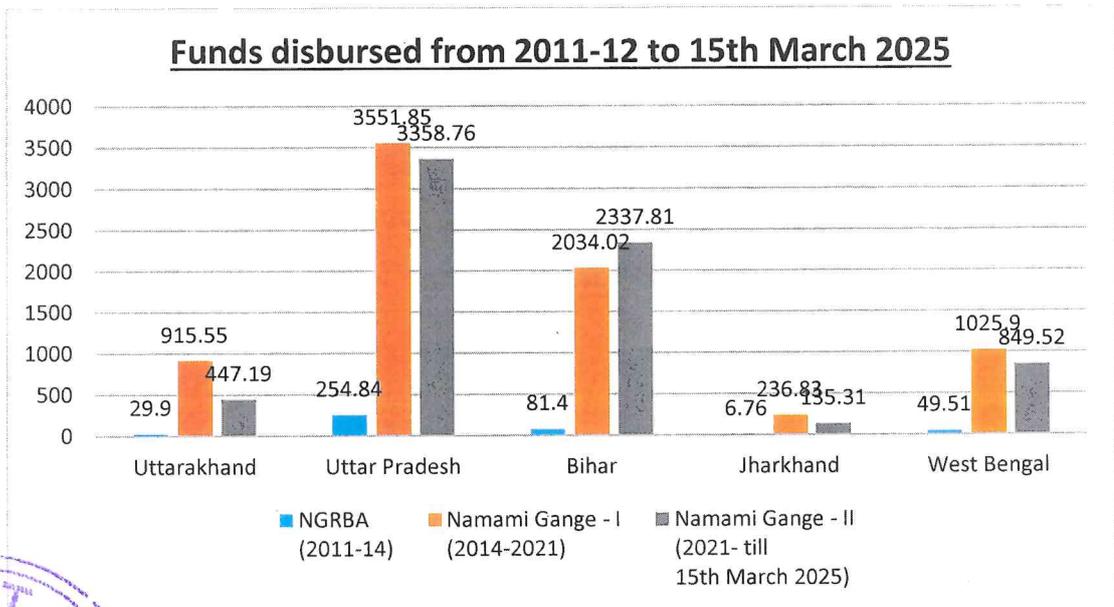


Fig. 1



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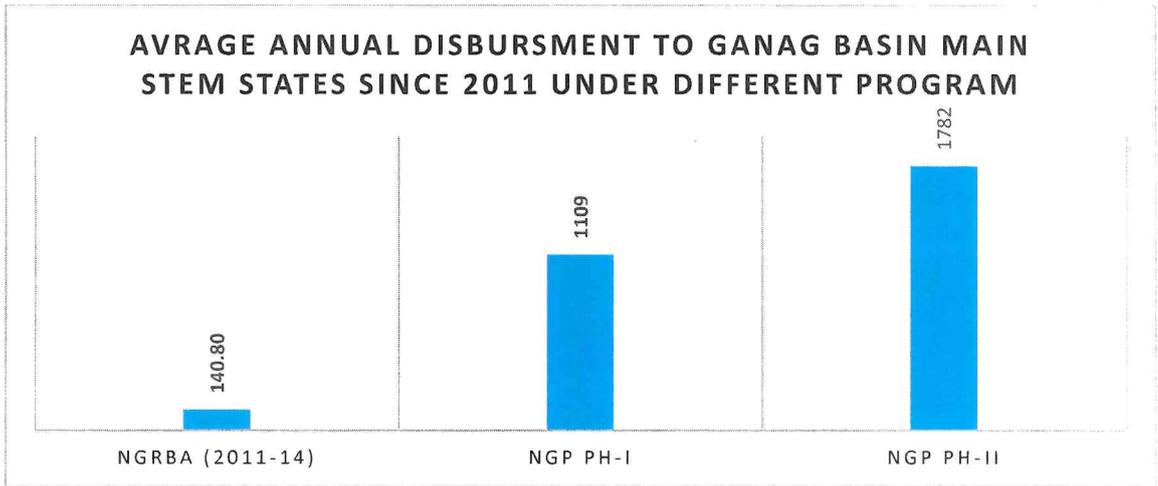


Fig. 2

8. It may also be stated that besides financial outflow, future liabilities (i.e. annuity payments and operation and maintenance payments) are also created for infrastructure projects implemented through Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) / Design, Build, Operate, and Transfer (DBOT) model over a life cycle of 17 years (2 years of construction phase and 15 years of operation & maintenance).

9. It is further submitted that under "NGP" aiming for the achievement of rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries, as on February 2025, a total of 494 number of projects (including sewage infrastructure) have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of ₹40,478 Cr, out of which, a total of 308 projects have been completed and made operational. The major components are as under:

a) Sewerage Infrastructure: Out of the total sanctioned project, a total 208 number of sewerage infrastructure projects have been taken up with a cost of ₹ 33,360 Cr for creation & rehabilitation of 6,420 Million Liters per Day (MLD) of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity and laying of 5,161 Km sewerage networks. Out of these, 127 sewerage projects have



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been completed at a cost of Rs 15,649 Cr (Namami Gange share) resulting in the creation & rehabilitation of 3,446 MLD of sewage treatment capacity and the laying of a 4,550 km sewerage network.

b) Industrial Pollution abatement: 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.

c) Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM): The Hybrid Annuity-based PPP model (HAM) was approved by the Government of India in May 2016. Since then, NMCG has sanctioned 35 projects worth ₹12,417 Cr. Out of these 35, 1 project in Uttarakhand, 11 in Uttar Pradesh, and 3 in West Bengal have been completed; 9 projects in Uttar Pradesh, 3 in Bihar, 1 in Jharkhand and 3 in West Bengal have already been awarded and are at various stages of implementation; while 1 project in Bihar and 3 projects in Uttar Pradesh are under tendering stage.

10. That the current status of projects in Jaunpur, Kasganj, Varanasi, Bareilly, Salori, and Agra, as mentioned in the Hon'ble Tribunal Order dated 30.08.2024, are given in Table-2 at *Annexure-1*. As indicated therein, out of six projects, 3 projects are completed; and remaining 3 are targeted to be completed in next one year.



CC

11. 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.

Deponent

अनूप कुमार श्रीवास्तव/Anup Kumar Srivastava
कार्यकारी निदेशक (तकनीकी)/Executive Director (Technical)
राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन/National Mission for Clean Ganga
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भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली /Govt. of India New Delhi

Dated: April, 2025

Place: New Delhi

VERIFICATION

1 APR 2025

Verified at New Delhi on this day.....April, 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.

... was signed in presence of



Deponent

अनूप कुमार श्रीवास्तव/Anup Kumar Srivastava
कार्यकारी निदेशक (तकनीकी)/Executive Director (Technical)
राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन/National Mission for Clean Ganga
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भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली /Govt. of India New Delhi

... affirmed that the contents of the document was declared on solemn affirmation before me which has been read over to the deponent who has admitted

It is correct Notary DELHI

1 APR 2025

Table-2

No	Project	Implementation Mode	Project Cost (₹ in Cr)	Actual Expenditure/ Payment to Concessionaire (Feb'25) (₹ in Cr)	Physical Progress as of (Feb'25)
1	Interception & Diversion (I&D) of Drains and Sewerage Treatment Plant at Jaunpur, U.P.	DBOT	206.05	148.84	Completed in Aug'22
2	Interception & Diversion (I&D) of drains and Sewerage Treatment Plant at Kasganj	DBOT	76.73	42.08	Completed in Jan'22
3	I&D and Treatment works for Assi-BHU Area (Phase-II), Varanasi	DBOT	308.09	21.12	37% Completion schedule (Mar-26)
4	Development of Sewerage Treatment Plant at Bareilly	HAM	271.39	109.21	Completed in Jun'24
5	Interception, Diversion of Balance 13 drains and Augmentation of Salori STP capacity by 43 MLD (Sewerage District-C) at Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh	DBOT	331.75	28.36	46% Completion schedule (Dec-25)
6	Agra Sewerage Scheme (Interception & diversion and STP works)	HAM	842.25	108.80	59% Completion schedule (Dec-25)
		Total	2036.26	458.41	

Note-

1. **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)**- (only 40% of capex is to be released till Commissioning). O&M payments post commissioning and other expenses towards centage (4% of capex), power connection etc. also.

2. **Design Build Operate Transfer (DBOT)**

