Interim Report in Compliance to the Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi order dated 11.07.2024 in the Matter of O.A. No. 752 of 2024 in the matter Brijesh Singh Ladwal vs Union Territory of Chandigarh & Ors.

1.0 Preamble

In this Original Application No. 752 of 2024, the matter of Brijesh Singh Ladwal vs Union Territory of Chandigarh & Ors. The applicant has raised the issue of pollution being caused in Sukhna Choe drain flowing in the State of Punjab after entering from Chandigarh. The said drain is a storm water drain but as per the plea of the applicant the drain is polluted on account of discharge of pollutants and the solid waste which is stored and dumped on the banks of the Sukhna Choe. It is also alleged that the slums and shops on the bank are also discharging pollutants in Sukhna Choe, which finally meet river Ghaggar. Therefore, the Choe is polluting river by infusing all kinds of chemical and pollutants. The Hon'ble NGT (PB) has given direction on 11.07.2024, which are as follows:

Para: 06

To ascertain the status at the ground level we constitute a Joint Committee comprising of the representative of the CPCB, RO MoEF&CC Chandigarh, District Commissioner/District Magistrate Chandigarh, District Magistrate Zirakpur. District Commissioner/District Magistrate Chandigarh will act as nodal agency.

Para: 07

The Joint Committee will ascertain the extent of pollution being caused from different sources in Sukhna Choe, will get the sample analysis reports of water of Sukhna Choe at different point and will also suggest the remedial measures. The Committee will also identify the industrial unit discharging effluent in Sukhna Choe

1.1. Order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Dated 11.07.2024

In compliance of the NGT order dated 11.07.2024, the *Joint Committee comprising of the following members and other associated concerned departments, which are as follows:*

1. Shri Vinay Pratap Singh, IAS, Dy. Commissioner, U.T., Chandigarh.
2. Shri Amit Gupta, PCS (SDM Derabassi, Punjab Representative of DC, Mohali).
3. Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Gupta, Director, MoEF&CC, RO, Chandigarh.
4. Shri Jagdish Prasad Meena, Scientist-D, CPCB, RD, Chandigarh.
5. Shri Ashok Pathria, E.O Zirakpur (O/o Dy. Commissioner, Mohali).

In this regard, the first meeting was convened on 12.08.2024 through virtual mode under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, U.T. Chandigarh, for the implementation of the order passed by the Hon'ble NGT dated 11.07.2024. In this meeting, it was requested to U.T. Chandigarh, Zirkapur (Punjab) and respective departments for providing the dry inventory data of the Sukhna Choe in their respective territorial area. Further in this context, a second meeting was also convened on 24.09.2024 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, U.T. Chandigarh, for the execution planning of the field visit and the sampling of the Sukhna Choe drain.

The committee comprised of the above members, and the representatives of the concerned departments, carried out a physical survey of the Sukhna Choe from the origin to the merging point into the River Ghaggar on September 26, 2024 to identify the pollutant sources.

2.0 Background:

Sukhna Choe originates from Sukhna Lake. Kishangarh is the first residential area situated near the Choe and further passes through various sectors of Chandigarh where it covers a distance of approx. 8.4 Kms and enters in Punjab at Baltana (Zirakpur). The treated discharge from Kishangarh STP and Raipur Khurd STP falls directly into Sukhna Choe, however, the treated discharge from Raipur Kalan-I & II STPs falls into Mansa Devi Complex Drain (MDC Drain) which carries also storm water from Sector 7, 17, 18 in Panchkula (Haryana) and joins Sukhna Choe at Zirakpur area. While flowing in Baltana, Punjab, 03 drains meet into Sukhna Choe i.e. Air Force Drain on the left side (Pabhat, Zirakpur), Singh Nala drain and Dhakoli Choe on the right side. It ultimately meets into the river Ghaggar after crossing the municipal limit of council Zirakpur. This Choe covers a distance of approx. 8.2 Kms in Punjab before it merges into the river Ghaggar.

This Sukhna Choe is an interstate drain that carries overflow of fresh water from Chandigarh Sukhna Lake and treated sewage and storm water from Zirakpur (District Mohali) catchment area, Punjab, and some parts of Panchkula area, waste water also joins into Sukhna Choe. The Google Map of the Sukhna Choe is attached as Annexure 1:

3.0 Salient Observations:

1. At the time of visit, the committee observed that the interstate drain is mostly carrying storm water and treated sewage from the Chandigarh, Panchkula, and Zirakpur areas.
2. The committee observed that the first STP of 2 MLD capacity was located at Kishangarh (Chandigarh), which is based on the MBR technology process. It was found operational and

informed by the concerned people that this STP receives about 1 MLD flow and its treated effluent is discharged into Sukhna Choe.

3. Further, this Sukhna Choe is passing through various areas of Chandigarh and meeting treated effluent of Raipur Khurd STP of 9 MLD capacity into the left bank of Sukhna Choe, then this Sukhna Choe, enters into (Zirakpur) Punjab.
4. The committee observed, and also informed by Municipal Corporation Panchkula (Haryana), that Mansa Devi Area Drain carrying untreated sewage about 0.5 MLD of the untapped area and further this drain also add treated effluent of 02 STPs of 22.5 MLD and 05 MLD capacities located at Raipur Kalan-I & II (Chandigarh), which is meeting into Sukhna Choe at Baltana Area (Punjab).
5. During the visit, the committee observed that a heap of solid waste and C&D waste were disposed off on the bank of the drain at Baltana area, Baltana K area (near the military area) in Punjab.
6. The committee also went to the Gazipur village(Punjab) area near the school, which is situated on the bank of Sukhna Choe, the place where the complainant raised the odour issue. At the time of visit, the committee observed slightly unpleasant odour due to dumping of the cattle dung in the area. Apart from that the committee interacted with the local people of the village Gazipur (Siani), as informed that treated effluent of STPs 18 MLD & 39 MLD capacities located at Panchkula area at sector 20, meeting in Sukhna Choe near the Gazipur village (Zirakpur), Punjab.
7. Further, this Sukhna Choe passing through the agricultural fields and joining into the river Ghaggar at Zirakpur (Punjab).
8. During site visit, the Municipal Council, Zirakpur representative informed that a STP of 17.3 MLD capacity is located in the Zirakpur area, which is based on SBR technology, receives the sewage of the Zirakpur area. Further informed that the treated effluent of the Zirakpur STP is being discharged into the river Ghaggar through an underground pipeline of about 3.5 Kms.
9. ***At the time of visit, the committee observed that the STP at Zirakpur of capacity 17.3 MLD (Operated by M/s Girdhari Lal Aggarwal Contractors Pvt. Ltd., Panchkula under Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board) was found to be non-functional and partially untreated sewage was being directly discharged into River Ghaggar through a pipeline.***
10. At the time of visit, the committee observed that the SBR tanks and chlorination tank of the STP 17.3 MLD Zirakpur were found to have anaerobic conditions, which indicates the STP is not working properly.

11. At the time of visit, the committee observed that heavy rain is falling in the drain catchment area and it carrying storm water; hence, representative sampling of the drain could not be taken.

12. The committee also visited the confluence point of the Sukhna Choe located at Zirakpur (Punjab) and observed that River Ghaggar is carrying muddy storm water from upstream catchment area.

13. Hence, the committee decided that because of monsoon/heavy rains in the catchment area, representative samples from the various Choes/Drains and river Ghaggar could not be collected for assessing the impact on water quality and impact of the Sukhna Choe.

14. The photographs taken during the visit is enclosed as Annexure-II

4.0 Recommendations:

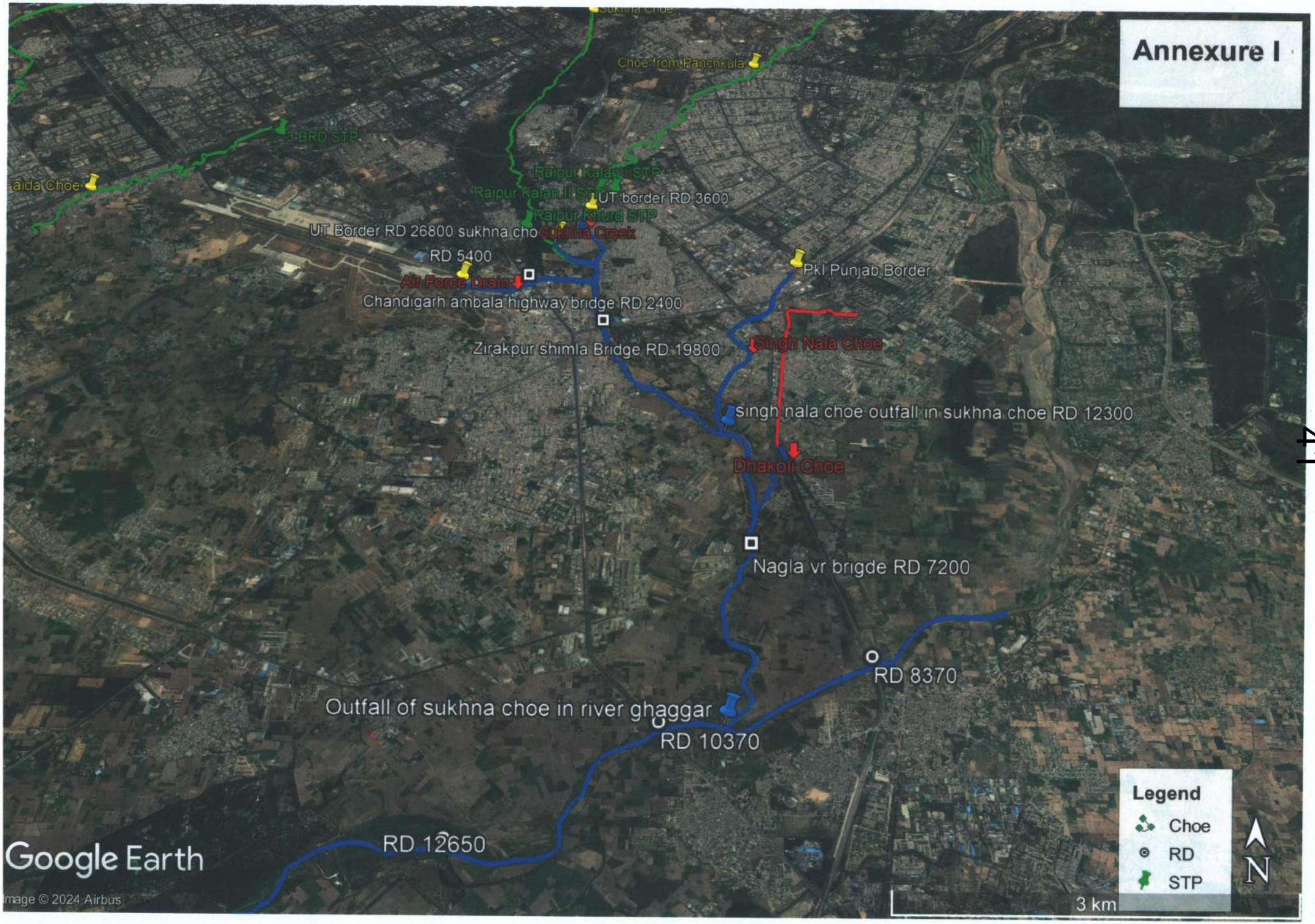
1. The Municipal Council Zirakpur shall carry out a survey and identify the spot area of the solid waste dumped into the Sukhna Choe, and 'Iron Net' will be fitted along with the drain in order to prevent dumping of the Solid Waste and C&D waste.
2. The Municipal Council Zirakpur shall ensure regular operation and maintenance of the existing STP of 17.3 MLD capacity.
3. Punjab Pollution Control Board shall issue direction to the Municipal Council Zirakpur / STP Operator to take corrective measures in a time-bound manner to ensure O&M of the STP, so that there is no disposal of untreated effluent into river Ghaggar.
4. The Municipal Corporation Panchkula shall carry out a survey and identify the spot area of the solid waste dumped in the drain carrying effluent in their catchment areas, which ultimately meets into the Sukhna Choe, and 'Iron Net' will be fitted along the drain in order to prevent dumping of the solid waste and C&D waste.
5. The Municipal Corporation, Panchkula shall ensure operation of the STPs that leads effluent into Sukhna Choe through drains so as to improve the water quality of the river Ghaggar.

Further, the case is listed for hearing on 04.10.2024, during physical survey to all the complaint site (as mentioned in the petition), sample collection was not done because of monsoon and heavy rains. Hence, the committee decided to collect the representative samples in the second/third week of October 2024. Therefore, it is kindly requested to the Hon'ble Tribunal to give an extension of three months time to collect the representative samples and analyse and to submit the final report by the joint committee.

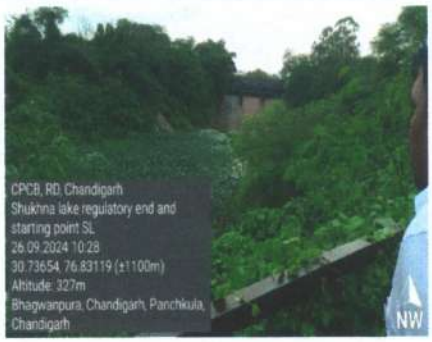
It is, therefore, prayed that a time period of three months may kindly be granted to Joint Committee for filing its final report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

Joint Committee Member (Constituted in the Matter of O.A No. 752 of 2024)

S. No.	Name & Designation	Organizations /Institutes/Departments	Signature
1.	Shri Vinay Pratap Singh, IAS	Deputy Collector, U.T. Chandigarh (Nodal Agency)	30/9/24
2.	Shri Amit Gupta, PCS	SDM Derabassi, Punjab Representative of DC, Mohali	Gupta 30/9/24
3.	Dr. Dharmendra Kumar Gupta, Director,	MoEF&CC, RO, Chandigarh (Member nominated by MoEF&CC, RO, Chandigarh)	30/9/24
4	Shri Jagdish Prasad Meena, Scientist-'D'	Central Pollution Control Board, Regional Directorate, Chandigarh (Member nominated by CPCB, RD Chandigarh).	Jagdish 30/09/2024
5.	Shri Ashok Pathria, Executive Officer, Zirakpur	(On behalf of Deputy Commissioner, Mohali)	30/09/2024


Annexure I
Choe from Panchkula
3 BRD STP
Faida Choe
Raipur Kalan I STP
Raipur Kalan II STP
UT border RD 3600
Raipur Khurd STP
UT Border RD 26800 sukhna cho
Sukhna Creek
RD 5400
Air Force Drain
Pkl Punjab Border
Chandigarh ambala highway bridge RD 2400
Zirakpur shimla Bridge RD 19800
Singh Nala Choe
singh nala choe outfall in sukhna choe RD 12300
Dhakoli Choe
Nagla vr brigde RD 7200
RD 8370
Outfall of sukhna choe in river ghaggar
RD 10370
RD 12650
Legend
Choe
RD
STP
N
3 km
Google Earth
Image © 2024 Airbus

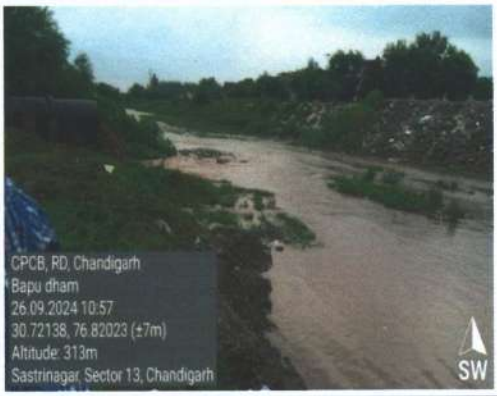
Photographs taken during the Physical Survey (26.09.24) Annexure-II



View of Sukhna lake regulatory end or originating point of Sukhna Choe.

View of STP (2 MLD) Kisangarh, Chandigarh.

View of Outlet of STP, Kisangarh discharged into Sukhna Choe.



View of Storm water outfalls into Sukhna Choe at Bapu Dham area Chandigarh.

View of Sukhna Choe at Bapu Dham Chandigarh.

View Outlet of STP Raipur Khurd, Chandigarh discharged into Sukhna Choe.

View of Mansa Devi Complex Drain at Panchkula. (Haryana).

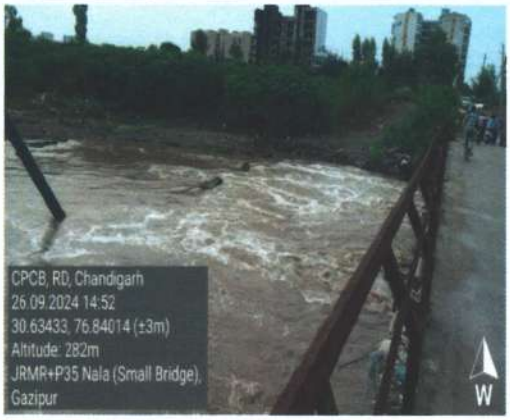
View of MDC Drain at Mata Mansa Devi Temple, Panchkula.

View of Sukhna Choe at Baltana Zirakpur (after confluence of MDC drain) and dumped Solid waste.

View of Sukhna Choe at Sector 20 Panchkula U/s bridge and Solid waste dumped.

View of Sukhna Choe at Sector 20 Panchkula D/s bridge and dumped C&D waste.

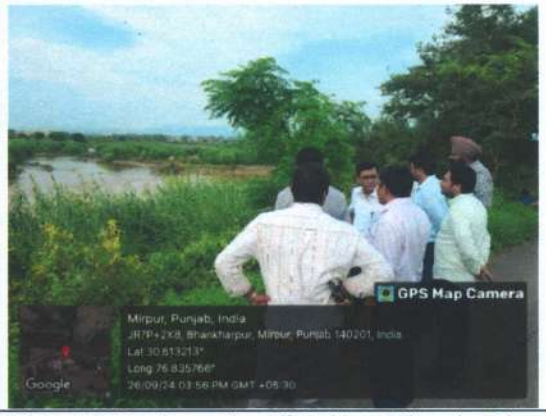
View of Sukhna Choe at Gazipur, Zirakpur d/s bridge.



View of Sukhna Choe at Gazipur, Zirakpur d/s bridge.

View of 17.3 MLD STP of Zirakpur.

View of Grit Chamber Tank of 17.3 MLD STP.

	
View of SBR Tank 02 of 17.3 MLD STP Zirakpur.	View of floating plastic material in selector zone/anoxic tank of SBR.
	
View of Floating Plastic Material in SBR Tank of STP.	View of Chlorine Tank with outlet of 17.3 MLD STP Zirakpur.
	
View of River Ghaggar at upstream.	View of Meeting point of Sukhna Choe in River Ghaggar at above 300 m u/s of bridge, Zirakpur.