

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 295/2025

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**News item titled "Nayar river is vanishing - a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025.**

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<b>1.</b>	<b>Reply</b> on behalf of the Respondent No. 01, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 05.06.2025 in Original Application No. 295/2025.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Annexure-I</b> A copy of Hon'ble NGT order dated 05.06.2025 in Original Application No. 295/2025.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Annexure-II</b> A copy of letter dated 30.07.2025 issued by CPCB to Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board.	



Filed by: Adv. Anuj Bhandari  
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

Place: Delhi  
Date: 05.08.2025

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Original Application No. 295/2025

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

News item titled "Nayar river is vanishing - a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025.

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 CENTRAL  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

**BACKGROUND:**

1. Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 05.06.2025 in O.A No. 295/2025 regarding News Item titled "Nayar river is vanishing - a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025, has impleaded respondents and directed the respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit. Copy of Hon'ble NGT order dated 05.06.2025 is enclosed as **Annexure I**.
2. That, CPCB has been constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.



**SUBMISSION MADE BY CPCB**

3. It is humbly submitted that Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) has established a National Water Quality Monitoring Network (NWMP). CPCB at present monitors water quality of aquatic resources at 4736 locations out of which 2155 locations are on 645 Rivers. However, River Nayar is not covered under NWMP Network.

Further, in compliance to the directions of Hon'ble NGT, CPCB vide letter dated 30.07.2025 sought information from Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board. Copy of CPCB letter enclosed as **Annexure II**. The letter was also communicated through E-mail dated 30.07.2025. However, response is awaited. In view of same, it is humbly submitted that the reply/response of concerned respondents may kindly be considered for adjudication of instant matter.

4. That the article points out that the Nayar River faces a severe and complex crisis, considering the 2017-18 report by on Himalayan water sources that revealed that nearly half of the region's perennial water sources have either dried up or experienced a significant decline in flow. The articles has attributed the decline of the Nayar River to multiple factors, namely, weakened community-forest relationships, neglect of traditional water management systems like khals and chals, abandonment of farmland, and top-down government planning models driven by contracts rather than community engagement. The article further mentions that over 50 pumping stations operate within the Nayar basin, drawing water but returning only pollution. Additionally, climate change, reduced groundwater recharge, and unchecked urbanisation are accelerating the river's decline. To address



these challenges, the article recommends - i) Afforestation with native species, ii) Revival of seasonal, regulated grazing practices, iii) Protection and restoration of traditional water sources, and iv) Implementation of integrated river basin management. It is humbly submitted that the issues raised in the article require response from state government.

5. That, the answering Respondent/CPCB craves leave of the Hon'ble NGT for filing additional reply, if required, in future.
  
6. That, in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent i.e. CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by the Hon'ble NGT in the instant OA and render justice.



**(Nazimuddin)**  
Scientist "F"

Central Pollution Control Board



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PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 295/2025

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News item titled "Nayar river is vanishing - a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nazimuddin** working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 1 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under:-

1. That I, the deponent herein is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

  
DEPONENT



नाज़िमउद्दीन / Nazimuddin  
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'  
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
Central Pollution Control Board  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Mo Environment, Forest And Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

## VERIFICATION

Verified at Delhi on this 05 AUG 2025 day of 05 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.



ATTESTED

NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI  
GOVT. OF INDIA

05 AUG 2025

DEPONENT

नाज़िमउद्दीन / Nazimuddin  
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'  
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
Central Pollution Control Board  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(Mo Environment, Forest And Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

Item No. 03

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

Original Application No. 295/2025

In Re: News Item titled "Nayar river is vanishing - a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025.

Date of hearing: 05.06.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN KUMAR TYAGI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Suo motu.

Respondents: None for the respondents.

**ORDER**

1. This original application is registered *suo-motu* based on the news item titled "Nayar river is vanishing - a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025.

2. The news item relates to the degradation of the Nayar River ecosystem in Uttarakhand. As per the article, a comprehensive Nayar River Yatra was conducted from April 21 to 28, 2025, tracing the river from its source to its confluence. This journey explored the river through ecological, philosophical, environmental, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. The article highlights that Doodhatoli, rising between 2,000 and 2,400 metres across the Chamoli, Pauri, and Almora districts, as the "Pamir of Uttarakhand" due to its rich ecology and strategic significance. Doodhatoli is the source of five non-glacial rivers, including the Eastern and Western Nayar, which begin as numerous rivulets nourished by alpine meadows, forests, farmland, and traditional water systems such as chal-khals and

khals. These two streams meet near Bhanghat to form the Nayar River, which eventually joins the Ganga at Vyasghat. The article mentions the river is a vital lifeline, sustaining the region's biodiversity, agricultural practices, cultural heritage, and rural livelihoods. However, the article points out that the Nayar River faces a severe and complex crisis. A 2017-18 report by India's Department of Science and Technology on Himalayan water sources revealed that nearly half of the region's perennial water sources have either dried up or experienced a significant decline in flow. As per the article, the decline of the Nayar River is attributed to multiple factors:

- Weakened community-forest relationships
- Neglect of traditional water management systems like khals and chals
- Abandonment of farmland
- Top-down government planning models driven by contracts rather than community engagement

Programs such as Har Ghar Nal and Har Ghar Jal focus on extracting water from distant sources but neglect the restoration of local traditional water systems. Currently, over 50 pumping stations operate within the Nayar basin, drawing water but returning only pollution. Additionally, climate change, reduced groundwater recharge, and unchecked urbanisation are accelerating the river's decline. The disappearance of aquatic species like the golden mahseer serves as a stark indicator of the river's deteriorating health. To address these challenges, the article recommends:

- Afforestation with native species
- Revival of seasonal, regulated grazing practices

- Protection and restoration of traditional water sources
- Implementation of integrated river basin management

3. The matter above seems to attract the provisions of the Biodiversity Act 2002, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

4. The power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha &Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

5. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

i. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB),

Through its Member Secretary,

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.

Phone: +91-11-43102030.

Email: [mscb.cpcb@nic.in](mailto:mscb.cpcb@nic.in).

ii. Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board,

Through its Member Secretary,

Gaura Devi Bhawan, 46 B IT Park, Sahastradhara,

Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248001.

Phone: 0135-2658086.

Email: [msukpcb@yahoo.com](mailto:msukpcb@yahoo.com).

iii. Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board,

Through it's Chairperson,

423, Indira Nagar Colony, (Near Malik Chowk) Dehradun,  
Uttarakhand, India-248006.

Phone: 01352769886.

Email: [sbuttarakhand@gmail.com](mailto:sbuttarakhand@gmail.com).

iv. G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment  
(GBPNIHE),

Through its Director Kosi-Katarmal,

Almora-263 643, Uttarakhand, India.

Phone: +91-5962-241015 (Office), 241034 (Residence).

Email: [psdir@gbpihed.nic.in](mailto:psdir@gbpihed.nic.in).

- v. Ministry of Jal Shakti,  
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga  
Rejuvenation,  
Through its Secretary,  
Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-11000.  
Phone: 011-23710305, 011-23715919.  
Email: [secy-mowr@nic.in](mailto:secy-mowr@nic.in).
- vi. Uttarakhand Forest Department,  
Through its Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF),  
85, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.  
Phone: 0135-2741462 (Office).  
Email: [itgc-forest-uk@nic.in](mailto:itgc-forest-uk@nic.in).
- vii. ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (DCFR),  
Through its Director.  
Anusandhan Bhawan, Industrial Area, Bhimtal - 263136,  
Uttarakhand, India.  
Phone: +91-5942-247280.

6. Let notices be issued to the respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing.

7. List on 06.08.2025 for further consideration.

Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

June 05<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Original Application No. 295/2025  
AB



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**केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार.  
 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA.

**Speed Post / E-mail**

F No. A-14011/1/2025 - WQM - I / 220

30. 07.2025

To

The Member Secretary,  
 Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board,  
 Gaura Devi Bhawan, 46 B IT Park,  
 Sahastradhara, Dehradun, Uttarakhand -  
 248001

**Sub: Original Application No. 295/2025 titled In Re: News Item titled "Nayar river is vanishing- a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" appearing in 'The Down To Earth' dated 03.06.2025-reg.**

Sir,

This is in reference to Hon'ble NGT order dated 05.06.2025 in O.A No. 295/2025, titled In Re: News Item titled "Nayar river is vanishing- a yatra reveals conservation goes beyond science and policy" about the article appearing in "The Down To Earth" dated 03.06.2025 vide which Hon'ble NGT impleaded various State & Central Govt. organizations including Central Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary to file the response. (Copy of NGT order is enclosed for ready reference)

In view of above, it is requested to furnish the information on Nayar River situated in the State of Uttarakhand to this office at an early date for ensuring compliance to the above mentioned Hon'ble NGT matter.

Early action is requested.

Yours faithfully,

(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM-I Division

Encl: As above

**‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली - 110032.**

**Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.**

**दूरभाष /Tel : 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट /Website: www.cpcb.nic.in**

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- iii. Uttarakhand Biodiversity Board,

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423, Indira Nagar Colony, (Near Malik Chowk) Dehradun,  
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Phone: 01352769886.

Email: [sbuttarakhand@gmail.com](mailto:sbuttarakhand@gmail.com).

- iv. G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment  
(GBPNIHE),

Through its Director Kosi-Katarmal,

Almora-263 643, Uttarakhand, India.

Phone: +91-5962-241015 (Office), 241034 (Residence).

Email: [psdir@gbpihed.nic.in](mailto:psdir@gbpihed.nic.in).

- v. Ministry of Jal Shakti,  
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga  
Rejuvenation,  
Through its Secretary,  
Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-11000.  
Phone: 011-23710305, 011-23715919.  
Email: [secy-mowr@nic.in](mailto:secy-mowr@nic.in).
- vi. Uttarakhand Forest Department,  
Through its Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF),  
85, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.  
Phone: 0135-2741462 (Office).  
Email: [itgc-forest-uk@nic.in](mailto:itgc-forest-uk@nic.in).
- vii. ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research (DCFR),  
Through its Director.  
Anusandhan Bhawan, Industrial Area, Bhimtal - 263136,  
Uttarakhand, India.  
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Arun Kumar Tyagi, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

June 05<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Original Application No. 295/2025  
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