

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2026

In the matter of:

In ReNewsItem Titled "Sewage Gaps: Disasters Lie In Wait & Water" appearing In Times of India Newspaper Dated 02.01.2026- reg."

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9.3.2026

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page no.
1.	Replyon behalf of Central Pollution Control Board, (CPCB) respondent no. 1 (CPCB) in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 17.01.2026 inOriginal Application No. 23/2026.	
2.	Annexure-IA copy ofletter dated 17.02.2026 issued by CPCB to Bhopal Municipal Corporation.	
3.	Annexure-IA copy ofperiodically review water quality data of aquatic resources monitored under NWMP.	

Filed by



ADV. ANUJ BHANDARI
On behalf of central pollution control board

Place: Delhi
Dated: 07.03.2026

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2026

In the matter of:

**In Re News Item Titled " Sewage Gaps: Disasters Lie In Wait & Water"
appearing In Times of India Newspaper Dated 02.01.2026- reg."**

REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 CENTRAL POLLUTION
CONTROL BOARD (CPCB).

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

1. That, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 17.01.2026 has sought the reply of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, CPCB is 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 (hereinafter Water Act), The Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter Air Act) and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. That, State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred as SPCBs/PCCs) have been constituted in States/Union Territories under Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 are empowered to perform the functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of territories falling in their respective territorial Jurisdiction.



4. That, the present matter is related to the news item stating a 2022 water supply study reporting contamination of drinking water as drinking water pipelines and drainage/ sewage network running through same channels. The news item further highlights serious health concerns due to contamination of drinking water through sewage.
5. That, the subject matter relates to the laying of water supply lines. And the responsibility of the designing, laying and maintenance of water supply lines lie with the local bodies.
6. That, in compliance with Hon'ble NGT order dated 17.01.2026, CPCB has taken up the case with Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as MPPCB) and Bhopal Municipal Corporation seeking the status report in the matter via letter dated 17.02.2026. Copy of the communication is attached as **Annexure-I**. However, the response is still awaited.
7. That, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has published Manual on Water Supply and Treatment Systems (Drink from Tap) – March, 2024 specifying the following steps which shall be followed for protection of Water Distribution System (WDS) against pollution from sewers and drains:
 - The water supply pipeline shall be laid at least 03 meters (horizontally) from the existing or prospective drain or sewer line. And in case this horizontal separation not available then, the water pipeline in this case should be internally lined and properly encased within outer MS pipe while laying it.
 - The water supply mains when crossing a lateral sewer line, storm drain, or sanitary sewer, the bottom of the water main is

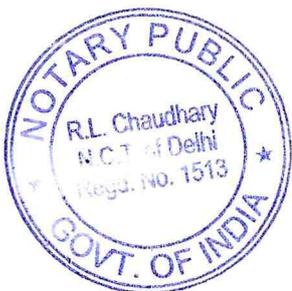


0.5 m above the top of the drain or sewer, and the mains are as far away from the sewer as feasible. This vertical separation should be maintained for a distance of 3 m on both sides, measured normal (perpendicular) to the sewer or drain it crosses. And in case the conditions prevent the minimum vertical separation or when the water main must pass through a sewer or drain, the water main should be laid with double flanged DI pipe with rubber gasket joints for a length on either side of the crossing. Moreover, it is suggested to use double flanged DI pipe with rubber gasket joints for the sewer, and to have both the water and sewer mains pressure tested before backfilling.

- Further, it is guided that When a water main has already been installed and a new sewer is being installed, the above factors may be considered, and the water main may be realigned to the extent necessary if the sewer cannot be installed in accordance with the above recommendations. And the water mains which are crossing the sewer mains, then such vulnerable spot shall be shown on GIS maps as well as asset management maps.

[Source: Chapter 12 Service Reservoirs and Distribution System of Part A: engineering- Planning, Design and Implementation (Fourth Edition), March, 2024.]

8. That, the possibility of contamination of water through cross-connections of water supply lines with sewers and drains and has been mentioned in the Manual and in this regard regular survey for identifying the potential areas likely to be affected by cross-connections and backflow has been recommended in the Manual. Manual states that the water supply authority needs to ensure proper water quality management



in distribution system. The minimum routine monitoring frequency of water quality parameters in water distribution system stated as

S. No.	Parameters	Test Frequency
	pH	Fortnightly
	Turbidity	Fortnightly
	Electric conductivity	Fortnightly
	Residual chlorine	Fortnightly
	E.coli (faecal coliform)	Fortnightly

[Source: Chapter 7 Water Quality Testing and Laboratory Facilities of Part A: engineering- Planning, Design and Implementation (Fourth Edition), March, 2024.]

And the minimum no. of samples from distribution system based on the population served defined in the manual as:

Population served	Maximum interval between successive sampling	Minimum no. of samples to be taken from entire distribution system	Parameter
Up to 20,000	Seven days (minimum four samples per month)	One sample per 5,000 of population per month	All 5 parameters mentioned above
20,000-50,000	Four days (minimum eight samples per month)		
50,000-1,00,000	Two days (minimum 15 samples per month)		
More than 1,00,000	One day	One sample per 10,000 of population per month plus 10 samples	

[Source: Table No.8.3 in Chapter 8 Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance of Part B: Operation and Maintenance (Second Edition), March, 2024.]



9. That, Manual has provided functions and responsibilities of various water quality monitoring and surveillance agencies as:

Agency	Function	Responsibilities
Surveillance Agency 1. State PHED 2. Urban Local Body 3. Local Health Authority, CMO/ Health Officer 4. State Pollution Control Board	Surveillance of Drinking Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the drinking water is free from contaminants. To find out what is wrong. To assist in setting things right in both rural and urban systems.
Water Supply Agency 1. State PHED/ Water Boards/ Urban Development Department. 2. Urban Local Board/ Authority. 3. Autonomous Agencies	Supply of potable water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide sufficient potable water to the population at an adequate pressure.
Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Board / Authority	Controlling pollution of the water source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To protect the raw water sources from being unduly polluted

[Source: Table No.8.4 in Chapter 8 Drinking Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance of Part B: Operation and Maintenance (Second Edition), March, 2024.]

10. That CPCB in association with SPCBs/PCCs monitor water quality of rivers and lakes under National Water Quality Monitoring Program. The water quality data helps state authority's / UT administration in taking priority-based actions for controlling pollution due to sewage in their state/UT. CPCB periodically review water quality data of aquatic resources monitored under NWMP and share with concerned SPCBs/



PCCs. The copy of the communication with SPCBs/ PCCs is enclosed as Annexure.-II

11.The answering respondent No.1 craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.

12.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 this Hon'ble tribunal in the instant OA.




(Nazimuddin)
Scientist 'F'
Central Pollution Control Board
06.03.2026

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2026

In the matter of:

In Re News Item Titled " Sewage Gaps: Disasters Lie In Wait & Water" appearing In Times of India Newspaper Dated 02.01.2026- reg."

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 as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions, 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.



Nazimuddin

DEPONENT

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

VERIFICATION:

06 MAR 2026

Verified at New Delhi on this day of _____ 2026 that the contents above 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 there from or mis-stated.


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

**ATTESTED**

NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA

06 MAR 2026

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)

Speed Post/ E-mail

F. No. CM-13011/25/2026-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO

/63 | 2743-44

Dated: 17.02.2026

सेवा में
सदस्य सचिव,
मध्य प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड,
ई-5, मुख्य मार्ग क्रमांक 3, एकांत पार्क,
अरेरा कॉलोनी, पर्यावरण परिसर, भोपाल,
मध्य प्रदेश – 462016
ms-mppcb@mp.gov.in.

सेवा में
आयुक्त,
भोपाल नगर निगम,
2 फ्लोर, ए विंग, आईएसबीटी परिसर,
डॉ. अम्बेडकर मार्ग, भोपाल,
मध्य प्रदेश – 462023 ।
commoffice@bmconline.gov.in

Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 17.01.2026 in OA No. 23/2026; News Item Titled "Sewage Gaps: Disasters Lie In Wait & Water" appearing in Times of India Newspaper dated 02.01.2026.

Sir/Ma'am,

Enclosed please find a copy of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 17.01.2026 in OA No. 23/2026; News Item Titled "Sewage Gaps: Disasters Lie In Wait & Water" appearing in Times of India Newspaper dated 02.01.2026.

It is requested to provide the comments/ status in the said matter at earliest for CPCB's appropriate reply, as the matter is listed on 09.03.2026.

भवदीय,



(नाज़िमुद्दीन)

प्रभाग प्रभारी, डब्ल्यूक्यूएम-1

संलग्नक: उपर्युक्तानुसार

प्रतिलिपि हेतु:

1. क्षेत्रीय निदेशक,
क्षेत्रीय निदेशालय (भोपाल),
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, पर्यावरण भवन,
पर्यावरण परिसर, ई-5, अरेरा कॉलोनी,
भोपाल – 462016 ।

: जानकारी एवं आवश्यक अनुवर्ती कार्यवाही हेतु ।



(नाज़िमुद्दीन)

केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
दिनांक.....
दिनांक 24/02/2026



OFFICE COPY

F. No. A-14011/1/2025/WQM-I /01

6/1/2025

To

The Member Secretary

(Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal)

Subject: Review of water quality data of Lake, Tank, Pond submitted under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP), regarding.

Sir,

CPCB periodically review water quality data of aquatic resources monitored under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). In continuation, water quality data of stagnant water bodies viz. lakes, tanks, and ponds for the year 2023 for critical parameters such as DO, pH, BOD, FC & FS are compared with Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing notified under the E(P) Rules, 1986 and observed that some of the monitoring locations at lakes, tanks & ponds require attention. Location -wise details are attached as Annexure for information and record.

In view of the above, it is requested to identify the sources of pollution specially at the non-complying locations and may take concerted efforts for improvement of water quality.

Yours faithfully



(Vishal Gandhi)

Scientist E, WQM-I Division

o/c

Encl: As above**Copy to:**

All RDs, CPCB

: For kind information & follow-up respective SPCBs/PCCs, please.

PS to MS, CPCB

: For kind information to 'MS', please



(Vishal Gandhi)

o/c

Speed Post / E-mail

F No. A-14011/1/2025 - WQM - I / 276

08.12.2025

To,
The Member Secretary,
(All SPCBs/PCCs)

Subject: Restoration plans for identified Polluted River Stretches (PRS)

Sir/Madam,

CPCB has identified "Polluted River Stretches for restoration of water quality, 2025" based on the water quality data of the year 2022 & 2023. The report is available on CPCB's web-site and can be downloaded using link <https://cpcb.nic.in/openpdffile.php?id=UmVwb3J0RmlsZXMTc3N18xNzYwNjgxNDA4X21lZGhlcGhvdG80MzkyLnBkZg==>.

The progress of the restoration plans prepared by the states for the Polluted River Stretches (PRS) identified earlier in 2018 is being monitored by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRCs) at States level and Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) at Centre level as per Hon'ble NGT(PB) orders dated 20.09.2018, 08.04.2019 and 21.09.2020 in O.A. No. 673/2018 in the matter of 'News item published in 'the Hindu' authored by Sh. Jacob Koshy - Titled "more river stretches are now critically polluted: CPCB".

It is requested that the above report may be shared with ULBs and the concerned departments in the State and necessary action may be taken to ensure updating of the restoration plans for rivers and water bodies by them w.r.t. the identified Polluted River Stretches.

Yours faithfully,

(Handwritten signature)
 (Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM -I Div.

Copy to:

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|
| 1. | The Regional Directors
(All Regional Directorates, CPCB) | : | For follow-up with SPCBs/PCCs,
please. |
| 2. | PS to MS, CPCB | : | For kind information of 'MS',
please. |

(Handwritten signature)
 (Nazimuddin)

Address List SPCB-PRS Letters

16

1.	Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, D.No. 33-26-14 D/2, Near Sunrise Hospital, Pushpa Hotel Centre, Chalamvari Street, Kasturibaipet, Vijayawada – 520 010
2.	Arunachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Paryavaran Bhawan, Papu Hill, Yupia Road, Naharlagun- 791110
3.	Assam Pollution Control Board, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati, Assam - 781021
4.	Bihar State Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, Plot No. NS-B/2 Paliputra Industrial Area, Patliputra, Patna (Bihar) - 800010
5.	Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Paryavas Bhavan, North Block Sector-19, Atal Nagar Dist-Raipur (C.G.)-492002
6.	Pollution Control Committee, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu 1 st Floor, Udhog Bhavan Bhenslore, Daman, Diu and DNH - 396210
7.	Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Government of N.C.T. Delhi 4 th and 5th Floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi-110006
8.	Goa State Pollution Control Board, Nr. Pilerne Industrial Estate, Opp. Saligao Seminary, Saligao - Bardez Goa - 403511
9.	Gujarat Pollution Control Board Paryavan Bhavan, Sector 10- A Gandhinagar – 382010
10.	Haryana State Pollution Control Board, C-11, Sector-6. Panchkula-134109, Haryana
11.	Himachal Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Him Parivesh, Phase-III, New Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 171009
12.	Jammu & Kashmir State Pollution Control Committee, (1) PariveshBhawan, Forest Complex, Gladni, Narwal, transport Nagar, Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir 180004 (Nov – April)
13.	Jharkhand Pollution Control Board, T.A Building, HEC, P.O. Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004
14.	Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Parisara Bhavan, 4th & 5th Floor, # 49, Church St., Bangalore-560 001
15.	Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Plamoodu Jn., Pattom Palace P.O. Thiruvananthapuram-695 004
16.	Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, E-5, Arera Colony, Paryavaran Parisar, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh- 462 016
17.	Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Kalpataru Point, 2nd – 4th Floor Opp. Cine Planet Cinema, Nr. Sion Circle, Sion (E) Mumbai – 400 022
18.	Manipur Pollution Control Board, Lamphelpat, Near Imphal West D.C. Office, Imphal
19.	Meghalaya Pollution Control Board ARDEN-Lumpyngngad Shillong: 793014
20.	Mizoram Pollution Control Board, New Secretariat Complex, KhatlaThlanmualPeng, Khatla, Aizawl, Mizoram: 796001
21.	Nagaland Pollution Control Board, Signal Point, Dimapur Nagaland:797112
22.	Odisha Pollution Control Board, A-118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit –VIII, Bhubaneswar – 751012
23.	Pondicherry Pollution Control Committee, Housing Board Complex, Anna Nagar, Pondicherry-600 005
24.	Punjab Pollution Control Board, Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala, Punjab147001
25.	Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, 4, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri, Jaipur, Rajasthan - 302004
26.	Sikkim State Pollution Control Board, Department of Forest, Environment & Wildlife Management Government of Sikkim, Deorali, Gangtok, -737102
27.	Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, 76, Mount Salai, Guindy, Chennai-600 032
28.	Telangana State Pollution Control Board, Paryavarana Bhavan, A-3, Industrial Estate Sanathnagar, Hyderabad-500 018
29.	Tripura Pollution Control Board, VigyanBhawan Pandit Nehru Complex, Gorkhabasti, PO: Kunjaban Agartala: 799006
30.	Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Building.No. TC-12V VibhutiKhand, Gomti Nagar Lucknow-226 010
31.	Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, Gaura Devi Bhawan, 46 B IT Park Sahastradhara, Dehradun, Uttarakhand - 248001
32.	West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Paribesh Bhavan, 10A, Block-L.A., Sector III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700106

17
REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BENGALURU

A-Block, Nisarga Bhavan, 1st and 2nd Floors, 7th D Cross, Thimmaiah Road, Shivanagar,
Bengaluru-560079,

Landline No: 080-23233739, 23233827, Fax No. 080-23234059

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - BHOPAL

Parivesh Bhawan, Paryavaran Parisar E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462016 Landline No:
0755-2775385, 2775386, Fax No. 0755-2775587

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - CHANDIGARH

BSNL Telephone Exchange, 2nd Floor, Sector -49 C, Chandigarh – 160047

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - CHENNAI

No. 40-E, 2nd Floor, BSNL Building, TVK Industrial Estate, CIPET Road, Guindy
Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600032

Landline Number: 044-29998683, 29567019

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - KOLKATA

‘South end Conclave’ Block-502, 5th & 6th Floor, 1582, Razidanga, Main Road, Kolkata- 700107

Landline Number: 033-2441 6634 / 4289 / 4677 / 6003,

Fax No. 033-2441 8725, Direct: 033 24416632

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - LUCKNOW

PICUP Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010

Landline Number: 0522-4087600, Fax No. 0522-4087602

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - PUNE

Survey No. 110, Dhankude Multi Purpose Hall, Baner Road, Baner, Pune - 411045

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - SHILLONG

Opp. Government Press, Ground Floor, CTO Building, BSNL Shillong- 793001

REGIONAL DIRECTORATE - VADODARA

Parivesh Bhawan, Opp. Ward No. 10 VMC Office Subhanpura, Vadodara – 390 023

Landline Number: 0265 – 2392603-04, Fax No. 0265-2392987