

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited Kurukshetra worst Jhajjar best says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

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6.5.2025

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Filed by:

(ADV. ANUJ BHANDARI)

**On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board
i-34, Jangpura Ext. New Delhi-14
anujbhandari123@gmail.com
9873722187**

Place: Delhi

Date: 02.05.2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited Kurukshetra worst Jhajjar best says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(CPCB) i.e RESPONDENT NO. 2**

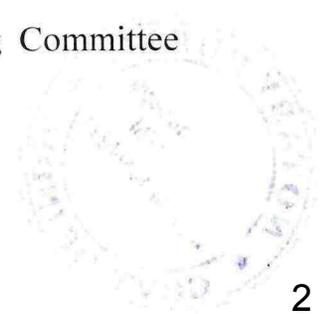
MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 23.01.2025 and Notice dated 03.02.2025 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 a statutory Board 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, it is humbly submitted that the State Pollution Control Boards Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred as SPCBs/PCCs) have



been constituted in States / Union Territories under the Water Act and Air Act, are empowered to perform the functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of territories falling in their territorial Jurisdiction.

4. That, the issues raised in the present matter is that the state of Haryana is extracting 136% of its annual replenishable groundwater, placing it among the regions where extraction surpasses natural recharge rates. The news item states that as per a report by the Central Ground Water Board (hereinafter referred as CGWB), 11.12% of the area of Haryana is classified as critical or semi-critical, 60.48% of Haryana's groundwater blocks are over-exploited, while only 28.4% (12,269.36 sq. km) is categorised as safe.
5. That, in compliance with Hon'ble NGT's order dated 23.01.2025 passed in the instant matter, the Answering Respondent has communicated with Haryana State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as HSPCB), Central Ground Water Authority (hereinafter referred as CGWA) and Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA) vide letter dated 06.02.2025 and reminder letter dated 11.03.2025 for seeking the status report/ action taken report in the matter. Copies of the letters are enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
6. That, the status report/ action taken report is received from the HWRA vide letter dated 13.03.2025 providing the steps taken and also provides for the funds allocated by the HWRA for the groundwater recharging and conservation in the state of Haryana. HWRA has informed that the Integrated Water Resource Plan (hereinafter referred as IWRP) has been prepared with the help of District Water Resources Planning Committee



which is headed by concerned district Deputy Commissioner. The aim of the IWRP is to reduce the gap between annual extractable groundwater resources and existing groundwater draft in three years i.e. 2023-2025. The response received from HWRA also reveals that the execution and monitoring of the Integrated Water Resource Action Plan (2023-25) has resulted in achievement of 85.07% of the water savings targeted up to February, 2025. Copy of the response received from HWRA is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

7. That, it is humbly submitted that the subject matter is related to the groundwater exploitation in Haryana which comes under the purview of state agencies and local authorities. Thereby, it is prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may consider the response filed by the concerned agencies/ state agencies for adjudication of the instant matter.
8. The answering Respondent No. 2 craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.
9. 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 and render justice.



(Nazimuddin)

Scientist- 'F' & Divisional Head, WQM-I
Central Pollution Control Board

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 23 OF 2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited Kurukshetra worst Jhajjar best says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nazimuddin** working as Scientist 'F' & Divisional Head, WQM-I in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 2 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under: -



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 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.

Wg

DEPONENT

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

VERIFICATION

02 MAY 2025

Verified at Delhi on this day of _____ 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

Wg
**NOTARY
DELHI (INDIA)**

02 MAY 2025

Wg

DEPONENT

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



Speed Post /Email

F. No. CM-13011/22/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO /17

Dated: 06.02.2025

To

The Member Secretary,
Haryana State Pollution Control Board
C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula
Haryana – 134109

Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 23.01.2025 in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best, says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

Sir,

Enclosed please find a copy of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 23.01.2025 in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best, says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

In this regard, it is requested to provide the status report/ action taken report in the said matter at earliest.

Yours faithfully

(Vishal Gandhi)

Scientist –E, WQM-I

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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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 /Email

F. No. CM-13011/22/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO 147

Dated: 06.02.2025

To

Member Secretary
Central Ground Water Authority,
Ministry of Jal Shakti,
CSMRS Campus, Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas
New Delhi-110016.

Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 23.01.2025 in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best, says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

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Scientist -E, WQM-I

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CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA.

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Speed Post /Email

F. No. CM-13011/22/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/117

Dated: 06.02.2025

To

Chief Executive Officer
Haryana Water Resources Authority
Rear Building, 3rd Floor, HSVP, Sector-6,
Panchkula, Haryana 134109

Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 23.01.2025 in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best, says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

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(Vishal Gandhi)
Scientist -E, WQM-I

Encl: As above

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

Speed Post /Email

Reminder I

F. No. CM-13011/22/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO / 44

Dated: 11.03.2025

To

The Member Secretary,
Haryana State Pollution Control Board
C-11, Sector-6, Panchkula
Haryana – 134109

Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 23.01.2025 in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best, says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

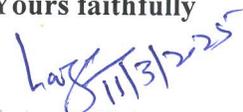
Reference: CPCB letter F. No. CM-13011/22/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO dated 06.02.2025

Sir,

Kindly refer to our earlier letter dated 06.02.2025 wherein it was requested to provide the status report/ action taken report in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best, says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025. However, no response has been received to this office till date.

In this regard, it is once again requested to kindly provide the aforesaid information at the earliest.

Yours faithfully


(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM-I

Encl: As above

‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली – 110032.
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केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड

CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA.

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Yours faithfully


(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM-I

Encl: As above

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

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Chief Executive Officer
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Yours faithfully

(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM-I

Encl: As above

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HARYANA WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY
Rear Building, 3rd Floor, HSVP, Sector-6, Panchkula
Website: www.hwra.org.in

From

The Chairperson,
Haryana Water Resources Authority,
Sector-06, Panchkula

To

Vishal Gandhi,
Scientist-E, WQM-I
Central Pollution Control Board
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar
Delhi - 110032

Memo No. 1035 / HWRA

Dated: 13-03-2025

Subject: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 23.01.2025 in the matter of OA No. 23/2025; News Item titled "Haryana's 60.48% groundwater over exploited: Kurukshetra worst, Jhajjar best says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

**Reference: - Your office Memo No. CM-13011/22/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/17/9026
Dated: 06.02.2025**

Kindly refer to the subject cited above.

- 2 In this context, kindly find the attachment of steps taken by Haryana Water Resources Authority regarding groundwater recharging and conservation activities.
This is for your kind information and necessary action.

DA: as above

SOB (Panchkula)

SOB (RB)

25/3

26/3

Pankaj
13.3.2025

(Pankaj Mahala)
Chief Hydrologist,
for Chairperson, HWRA

CC:-

- PS to Chairperson, HWRA for kind information W/Chairperson, HWRA, Panchkula please.
- PA to Chief Executive Officer, HWRA for kind information of W/CEO, HWRA, Panchkula please.

The steps taken by HWRA regarding groundwater recharging and conservation are as follows:-

- The Haryana Govt. has enacted “The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020” vide dated 07.12.2020 through Irrigation & Water Resources Department under which State Water Resources Management and Regulation Authority has been formed which will address the issue of Ground Water Regulation and its Management effectively & efficiently. The major objective of Haryana Water Resource Authority is to manage & regulate water resources of the State to ensure their judicious, equitable, and sustainable utilization, management, and regulation.
- The Haryana Water Resources Authority has categorized the state into 07 (seven) different categories on the basis of groundwater table/level. This classification is the first of its kind initiative of the state government towards water conservation and is based on the groundwater level as of June 2020. This will help the State government for ground level planning, strategies and remedial action with regard to groundwater management in villages and also help in achieving sustainability especially for water depleted and waterlogged areas. This categorization is available on HWRA website in public domain.
- Haryana Water Resources Authority has prepared Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) with the help of District Water Resources Planning Committee headed by concerned district Deputy Commissioner. The main aim of IWRP is to reduce gap between annual extractable ground water resources and existing groundwater draft in three years i.e. 2023-2025.

The Integrated Water Resources Action Plan contains both supply-side and demand-side water interventions activities such as Micro-Irrigation, Crop Diversification, Direct Seeding of Rice, Conservation Tillage, Green Manuring, Natural Farming, Varietal Interventions, Modernization of Channels & Water Courses, Reuse of Treated Waste Water, Ground Water Recharge, Pond rejuvenation, Construction of check dams and Roof/Rain Water Harvesting etc.

The execution and monitoring of the Integrated Water Resources Action Plan (2023-25) has resulted in achievement of 85.07% of the water savings targeted up to February, 2025. Major water saving is being done through adopting intervention i.e. Micro-Irrigation:-63412 Cr litres, Crop diversification:-41345 Cr

litres, Direct Seeding of Rice:-51726 Cr. Litres, Conservation Tillage:-150162 Cr litres and Varietal intervention:-94132 Cr litres.

- Haryana Water Resources Authority has funded following departments for water recharging and conservation activities. These funds were released from tariff account of HWRA. The details of the given funds are given below.

S.no	Period	Name of Department	Amount (In Rupees)	Purpose
1	2022-2023	Education Department	4,30,02,500/-	Construction of Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Structure in the Govt. Schools.
2	2023-2024	Irrigation & Water Resources	60,12,96,061/-	For Ground Water recharging & conservation activities
3	2024-2025	Irrigation & Water Resources	21,14,41,997/-	For Ground Water recharging & conservation activities
		Total	85,57,40,558/-	

In addition to above, for the fiscal year 2025-26 Rs.94.17 crore have been earmarked for Water Conservation Projects of I&WRD

Reply on behalf of CPCB O.A. No. 23 of 2023

1 message

Anuj Bhandari <anujbhandariaor@gmail.com>

Fri, May 2, 2025 at 8:15 PM

To: hqhspcb@hspcb.org.in, mscb.cpcb@nic.in, ronz.chd-mef@nic.in, chmn-cgwb@nix.in

Served to the reply copy other side Respondent advs. annex. herewith.

 **Reply O.A. 23 OF 2025.pdf**
6178K