

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 21 OF 2026**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suyash Kumar Mishra

...Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Index

26.5.2026

Sr. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Reply on behalf of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) respondent no. 5 in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 13.01.2026.	

Filed by



(ADV. ANUJ BHANDARI)

On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

I-34, LGF, Jangpura Ext. New Delhi-14

anujbhandari123@gmail.com

9873722187

Place: New Delhi

Dated: 20.05.2026

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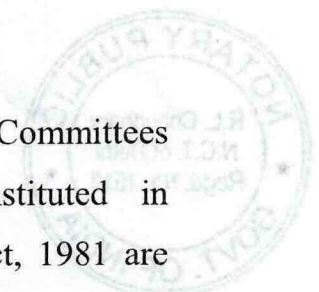
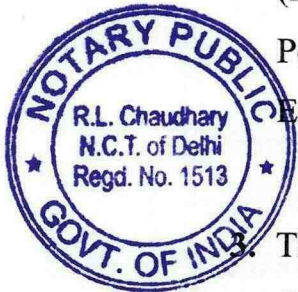
...Respondent(s)

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 05 i.e. CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

1. That, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (hereinafter referred as "NGT") vide order dated 13.01.2026 has sought the reply/response of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as "CPCB") in the instant matter i.e. Original Application No. 21/2026 (hereinafter referred as "OA"). Thereby, the reply is made in the instant OA in succeeding paragraphs.

2. That, it is humbly submitted 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 referred as Water Act), The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act (hereinafter referred as Air Act), 1981, 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 their territorial Jurisdiction.

4. That, the present complaint in the instant matter relates to the complaint of the residents of Sector-Delta-I, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh regarding the discoloured, foul smelling drinking water allegedly supplied through municipal pipelines resulting in various health issues. The applicant has also alleged about the similar issues in other areas like Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Pune in Maharashtra and Bengaluru in Karnataka. Further, the applicant alleged that sewage mixed water is being supplied in these municipal corporations resulting in water borne diseases.
5. That, the subject matter relates to repeated and recent incidents of contamination of municipal drinking water in multiple Indian cities. It is respectfully submitted that the responsibility of the designing, laying and maintenance of water supply lines lie with the urban local body in the area concerned.
6. That, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India (hereinafter referred as MoHUA) has published a Manual on Water Supply and Treatment Systems (Drink from Tap) – March, 2024 (hereinafter referred as Manual”) specifying the following steps which shall be followed for protection of Water Distribution System (hereinafter referred as WDS) against pollution from sewers and drains:

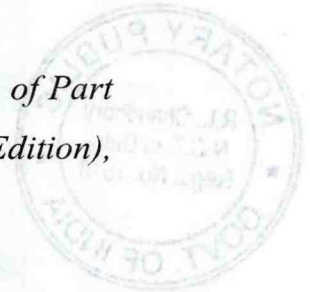


- The water supply pipeline shall be laid at least 03 meters (horizontally) from the existing or prospective drain or sewer line. And in case this horizontal separation not available then, the water pipeline in this case should be internally lined and properly encased within outer MS pipe while laying 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.]

7. That, necessary actions to prevent contamination of water through cross-connections of water supply lines with sewers and drains have been mentioned in the Manual. In this regard regular survey for identifying the



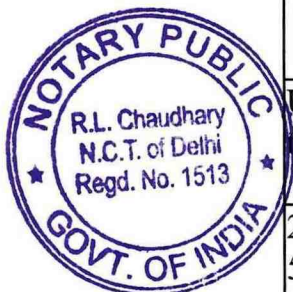
potential areas likely to be affected by cross-connections and backflow has been recommended in the Manual. The Manual states that the water supply authority needs to ensure proper water quality management in distribution system. The minimum routine monitoring frequency of water quality parameters in water distribution system stated as

S. No.	Parameters	Test Frequency
1.	pH	Fortnightly
2.	Turbidity	Fortnightly
3.	Electric conductivity	Fortnightly
4.	Residual chlorine	Fortnightly
5.	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.]

Further, the minimum no. of samples from distribution system based on the population served defined in the manual is as follows:

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

8. That, Manual has provided functions and responsibilities of various water quality monitoring and surveillance agencies which are as follows:

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.

9. That the answering respondent No. 5 craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.
10. That in light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this answering respondent i.e. CPCB shall abide by all the order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in this original application and render justice.



haz

(Nazimuddin)
Scientist 'F'

Central Pollution Control Board
19.05.2026

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, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032



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AFFIDAVIT

I, Nazimuddin in the capacity of Scientist 'F', having office at the Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as follows: -

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, the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the records 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.



haz
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

I, Nazimuddin working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032, the respondent No. 5 herein does hereby verify that the contents above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Verified at Delhi on this the ¹⁹ MAY 2026, 2026.

haz

DEPONENT



ATTESTED
[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA

19 MAY 2026

नाज़िमउद्दीन / Nazimuddin
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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