

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

Original Application No. 1301 OF 2024

In the matter of:

NEWS ITEM TITLED "HIMALAYAN GLACIAL LAKES EXPAND BY 10.81 % IN 13 YEARS RAISING FLOOD CONCERNS AND URGENT CALL FOR ACTION" APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 04.11.2024

**Index**

S. No.	Particulars	Pg. No.
1.	<b>Reply</b> on behalf of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Respondent No.6 in Original Application No. 1301 of 2024 in compliance to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 19.11.2024.	
2.	<b>Annexure I:</b> A copy of letter dated 08.01.2025 issued by CPCB to Central Water Commission and G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment.	
3.	<b>Annexure II:</b> A copy of Reminder letter dated 07.02.2025 issued by CPCB to Central Water Commission and G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment.	
4.	<b>Annexure III:</b> A copy of Hon'ble NGT order dated 19.11.2024 in O.A No. 1301 of 2024.	

*Rajkumar*

**Filed by Adv. Rajkumar  
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

**Place: Delhi  
Dated: 07.03.2025**

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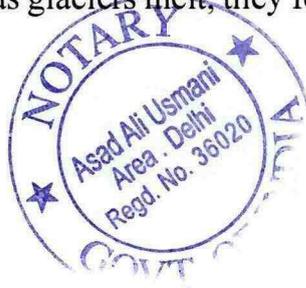
**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 6 (CENTRAL POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD) IN THE ABOVE CAPTIONED O.A.**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 19.11.2024 and Notice dated 27.11.2024 impleaded the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) as Respondent no. 6 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, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**REPLY ON MERIT:-**

3. That, the present matter is related to news item report about the rapid expansion of Himalayan glacial lakes. The report states that the glacial lakes have grown by 10.81% over the past 13 years. The situation is even more critical in India where glacial lakes expanded by 33.7% over the same period. This expansion is a direct result of rising temperatures and accelerated retreat of glaciers due to climate change. That as glaciers melt, they form larger glacial lakes, which now



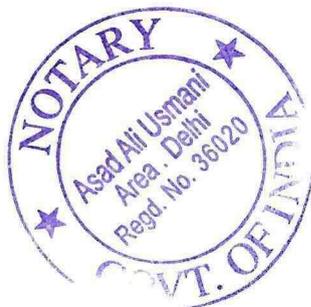
hold significantly more water, raising concerns about the increased risk of natural disasters like floods and landslides.

4. That, as the subject matter relates to the rapid expansion of Himalayan glacial lakes, in compliance with Hon'ble NGT order dated 19.11.2024 passed in instant matter, CPCB has communicated with G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Central Water Commission for seeking the status report in the matter via letter dated 08.01.2025 and a reminder letter dated 07.02.2025. A copy of the letters dated 08-01-2025 and reminder letter dated 07.02.2025 are annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE-I** and **ANNEXURE-II**. The status report of the matter is still awaited from the concerned authorities by the answering Respondent.
5. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB has not dealt the subject matter of expansion of glacial lakes as a direct result of rising temperatures and accelerated retreat of glaciers due to climate change. It is prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may consider the response filed by other respondents for adjudication of the instant matter.
6. That, the answering respondent no. 6 craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply, if required, in future.
7. That in the light of the above submissions, 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 Court in the instant OA.



(Nazimuddin)  
Scientist 'F'

Central Pollution Control Board



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Original Application No. 1301 OF 2024

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IN 13 YEARS RAISING FLOOD CONCERNS AND URGENT CALL FOR  
ACTION" APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF INDIA DATED 04.11.2024.

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Nazimuddin** working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 6 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 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**

नाज़िमउद्दोन / 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

07 MAR 2025

**VERIFICATION**

Verified at New Delhi on this day of 07 MAR 2025 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.


**DEPONENT**

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



**ATTESTED**  
  
 NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI (INDIA)

07 MAR 2025

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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

CM-13011/329/2024-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/13

Date: 08/01/2025

To

The Chief Engineer (Planning & Development),  
Central Water Commission  
Sewa Bhawan, West Block-2, RK  
Puram Sector 1, New Delhi-110066

**Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) dated 19.11.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1301/2024; News Item titled "Himalayan glacial lakes expand by 10.81 % in 13 years raising flood concerns and urgent call for action" appearing in the Times of India dated 04.11.2024.**

Sir,

Enclosed please find a copy of Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 19.11.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1301/2024; News Item titled "Himalayan glacial lakes expand by 10.81 % in 13 years raising flood concerns and urgent call for action" appearing in the Times of India dated 04.11.2024.

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 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



Speed Post/E-mail

CM-13011/329/2024-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/13

Date: 08/01/2025

To

The Administrative Officer  
G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment  
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand -263 643

**Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT (PB) dated 19.11.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1301/2024; News Item titled "Himalayan glacial lakes expand by 10.81 % in 13 years raising flood concerns and urgent call for action" appearing in the Times of India dated 04.11.2024.**

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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

Reminder-I

CM-13011/329/2024-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO /31  
To

Date: 07/02/2025

The Administrative Officer  
G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment  
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand -263 643

Sub: Direction of Hon'ble NGT (PB) dated 19.11.2024 in the matter of OA No. 1301/2024; News Item titled "Himalayan glacial lakes expand by 10.81 % in 13 years raising flood concerns and urgent call for action" appearing in the Times of India dated 04.11.2024-reg.

Ref: CPCB letter No. CM-13011/329/2024-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/13 dated: 08.01.2025

Sir,

Kindly refer to our earlier letter of even number dated 08.01.2025 wherein it was requested to provide the status report/ action taken report in the said matter as per the directions of Hon'ble NGT. However, the reply is still awaited.

In this context, it is further requested to provide the requisite details of status report at an early date, preferred by 21.02.2025.

This may be treated as "URGENT".

Yours faithfully

  
(Vishal Gandhi)  
Scientist 'E',  
WQM-I Division

Encl: As above

‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली - 110032.  
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दूरभाष /Tel : 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट/Website: www.cpcb.nic.in



Speed Post/E-mail

Reminder-I

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Encl: As above

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Item No. 04

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1301/2024

News item titled "Himalayan glacial lakes expand by 10.81 % in 13 years raising flood concerns and urgent call for action" appearing in the Times of India dated 04.11.2024

Date of hearing: 19.11.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

**ORDER**

1. This original application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Himalayan glacial lakes expand by 10.81 % in 13 years raising flood concerns and urgent call for action" appearing in the Times of India dated 04.11.2024.

2. The matter relates to the rapid expansion of Himalayan glacial lakes, which have grown by 10.81% over the past 13 years. This expansion is a direct result of rising temperatures and accelerated retreat of glaciers due to climate change. As glaciers melt, they form larger glacial lakes, which now hold significantly more water, raising concerns about the increased risk of natural disasters like floods and landslides.

3. As per the news item, a recent report by the Central Water Commission (CWC) has highlighted a significant expansion of glacial lakes in the Himalayan region, with an increase of 10.81% in surface area from 2011 to 2024. The report also notes that the surface area of glacial lakes in India has increased by 33.7% during the same period.

4. The news item highlights that the rapid growth of these lakes poses a heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), which can have catastrophic consequences for downstream communities, infrastructure, and biodiversity. The report identifies 67 lakes in India that have seen an increase of over 40% in surface area, placing them in the high-risk category for potential GLOFs<sup>1</sup>. The most notable expansions have been observed in regions such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. Furthermore, it is discussed that with many communities living near these lakes or downstream from them, the expanding size of the glacial lakes threatens their safety, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The article stresses the urgent need for enhanced monitoring, early warning systems, and improved flood management strategies to mitigate the potential damage.

5. The above matter indicates violation of the Biodiversity Act, 2002; Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

6. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance with the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

7. 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.

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

- i. GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment, Through its  
Director  
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora 263, Uttarakhand, India

ii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Through its Secretary

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi-110003

iii. Central Pollution Control Board, Through its Member Secretary

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

9. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal

10. List on 10.03.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

November 19, 2024  
HB..