

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

Original Application No. 633/2024

In the matter of:

"News Item titled " The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024"

NDOH: 17.09.2024

INDEX

S. No.	Particular	Page No.
1	Response on behalf of DPCC with respect to the order 29.05.2024.	1-3
2	<u>Annexure-1</u> Copy of the notification dated 23.04.2019 of Department of Forests and Wildlife.	4-6
3	<u>Annexure-2</u> Copy of the letter dated 24.05.2024 issued to DMs.	7
4	<u>Annexure-3</u> Copy of email dated 10.09.2024 by Wetland Authority of Delhi regarding District-wise Total Number of Water Bodies, Visible Water Bodies and Ground Truthing of Water Bodies.	8

Filed by:

(Delhi Pollution Control Committee)
Respondent

New Delhi:
Dated:11.09.2024

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

OA.NO. 633 OF 2024

News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

RESPONSE OF DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE (DPCC)
WITH RESPECT TO THE ORDER DATED 29.05.2024.

1. That, this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has taken up this matter suo motu on the basis of the news item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in 'The Hindu' dated 25.04.2024.
2. That, this Hon'ble Tribunal vide order dated 29.05.2024 in above referred matter directed as follows:

“

2. The news item relates to the disappearance of water bodies in Delhi. As per the news item, despite Delhi witnessing the worst flood in its history last year, there has been no improvement in the miserable state of water bodies in the city, which could hold extra water and help in flood mitigation. The article states that in fact the situation is getting worse, the different government agencies that control these areas have requested the 'deletion' of 232 water bodies, over 22% of the 1,045 water bodies in Delhi from the official records, due to encroachment and other reasons. The news item mentions that a garbage dump in Khichripur in East Delhi used to be a water body once. It states that this is the story of one of the many water bodies in Delhi. The news item states that over a year ago, Geospatial Delhi Limited (GSDL), a Delhi government-owned company, used satellite images to identify 321 more water bodies in Delhi. After the GSDL sent the list of 321 more possible waterbodies, the Delhi government confirmed, using GPS coordinates, that these were other than the 1,045 waterbodies as per the existing list. The list was then forwarded to the Revenue Department to do a ground truthing exercise, to confirm their status, but the department is yet to complete the exercise.

3. The news item further states that the government is also supposed to notify water bodies that fit the definition of "wetlands", so that they can get legal protection from encroachments or waste dumping, and to facilitate efforts to rejuvenate them. However, not a single wetland has been "notified" in Delhi, seven years after the Union government came out with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, which made it mandatory for all States and Union Territories to form State wetland authorities and identify and notify all wetlands. Wetlands are vital parts of the hydrological cycle, which support rich biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as water storage, purification, ground water recharge, flood mitigation, erosion control, and microclimate regulation. It states that Delhi has largely lost its wetlands to unplanned growth and encroachment. The news item states that there were a lot of wetlands along the Yamuna's floodplains and almost every village in Delhi had ponds. But most of them have been filled up and built over, either by the government or private individuals illegally.

.....”

3. That, Delhi Pollution Control Committee has been impleaded as one of the Respondent in this matter to file its response.
4. That, Wetlands Authority of Delhi has been constituted vide Notification dated 23.04.2019 of Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi for the purpose of the conservation and management of wetland for the Union Territory of Delhi headed by Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi.
Copy of the Notification dated 23.04.2019 of Department of Environment, Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi is at **Annexure-1**.
5. That, in compliance of decisions taken by the Integrated Drain Management Cell (IDMC) in its 17th Meeting held on 18.04.2024 w.r.t. orders of Hon'ble High Court dated 08.04.2024 in W.P.(C) No. 7594/2018 in the matter of "Court on its own motion Vs. Union of India & Ors" and W.P.(C) No. 9617/2022 "Court on its own motion Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Ors. ,

DPCC vide email dated 20.05.2024 received two lists of 1045 & 322 Water Bodies along with Geo-coordinates (Latitude, Longitude) from Wetlands Authority of Delhi. These lists were forwarded to concerned District Magistrates vide letter dated 24.05.2024 for ground truthing etc.

Copy of the letter dated 24.05.2024 of DPCC to District Magistrate is at Annexure-2.

6. That as per the information provided by Wetlands Authority of Delhi by email dated 10.09.2024, there are total 1367 Water Bodies (1045 Listed Water Bodies + 322 Water Bodies identified through Satellite Imagery). Out of 1367 Water Bodies, Ground Truthing has been done in case of 674 (631+43) Water Bodies. Total number of visible Water Bodies is 674.

District-wise Total Number of Water Bodies, Visible Water Bodies and Ground Truthing of Water Bodies as received from Wetlands Authority of Delhi is at Annexure-3.

7. That this response of DPCC may kindly be taken on record.



(Dr. K. S. Jayachandran)
Member Secretary,
Delhi Pollution Control Committee

New Delhi

Dated: 11.09.2024

दिल्ली राजपत्र
Delhi Gazette



असाधारण

EXTRAORDINARY

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 77] दिल्ली, बृहस्पतिवार, अप्रैल 25, 2019/वैशाख 5, 1941 [रा.रा.रा.क्षे.दि. सं. 25
No. 77] DELHI, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019/VAISAKHA 5, 1941 [N.C.T.D. No. 25

भाग—IV

PART—IV

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी राज्य क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI

पर्यावरण विभाग

अधिसूचना

दिल्ली, 23 अप्रैल, 2019

सं.फा.1(07)/डी.पी.जी.एस./सी.के.स/2017-18/9397.9429.—पर्यावरण वन, वन्यजीव एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, जी.एस.आर. 1203(ई) दिनांकित 26 सितंबर, 2017 द्वारा अधिसूचित आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम 2017 के नियम (6) व नियम (7) द्वारा प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, दिल्ली के उपराज्यपाल केंद्र शासित प्रदेश दिल्ली में आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) के उद्देश्य से निम्नलिखित सदस्यों को निहित करते हुए, आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरण का गठन करते हैं:—

i.	मुख्य सचिव	अध्यक्ष
ii.	उपाध्यक्ष, दिल्ली विकास प्राधिकरण	सदस्य पदेन
iii.	सचिव, प्रभारी—पर्यावरण विभाग	उपाध्यक्ष
iv.	प्रधान सचिव, प्रभारी—लोक निर्माण विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
v.	सचिव, प्रभारी—शहरी विकास विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
vi.	आयुक्त—सह—सचिव, प्रभारी—विकास विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
vii.	मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, दिल्ली जल बोर्ड	सदस्य पदेन
viii.	सचिव, प्रभारी—मतस्य पालन विभाग	सदस्य पदेन

ix.	सचिव, प्रभारी-सिचाई एवं बाढ़ नियंत्रण विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
x.	सचिव, प्रभारी-पर्यटन विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
xi.	सचिव, प्रभारी-राजस्व विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
xii.	प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, वन एवं वन्यजीव विभाग, दिल्ली	सदस्य पदेन
xiii.	प्रबंध निदेशक, भू-स्थानिक तथ्य समिति (जी.एस.डी.एल.)	सदस्य पदेन
xiv.	सदस्य सचिव, दिल्ली प्रदूषण नियंत्रण समिति	सदस्य पदेन
xv.	सदस्य सचिव, जैव विविधता बोर्ड	सदस्य पदेन
xvi.	आयुक्त, दिल्ली नगर निगम (उत्तर, दक्षिण एवं पूर्व)	सदस्य पदेन
xvii.	प्रमुख, दिल्ली ईकाइ, केंद्रीय भू-जल बोर्ड	सदस्य पदेन
xviii.	सचिव, दिल्ली छावनी बोर्ड	सदस्य पदेन
xix.	अतिरिक्त प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, क्षेत्रिय कार्यालय पर्यावरण वन, वन्यजीव एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, लखनऊ, उत्तर प्रदेश	सदस्य पदेन
xx.	निदेशक, दिल्ली चिड़ियाघर	सदस्य पदेन
xxi.	अधीक्षक, पुरातत्वविद, भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण	सदस्य पदेन
xxii.	निदेशक, पर्यावरण विभाग	सदस्य पदेन
xxiii.	वन संरक्षक / मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, डी.पी.जी.एस.	सदस्य पदेन

निम्नलिखित सदस्यों को विशेषज्ञ के रूप में नामित किया जाता है:-

- I. श्री आई. एच. खॉन, प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक, सेवानिवृत्त
- II. श्री मनु भटनागर, इनटेक
- III. निदेशक, डी.टी.यू. / प्रतिनिधि, डी.टी.यू.
- IV. निदेशक, आई. ए. आर. आई. / प्रतिनिधि, आई. ए. आर. आई.

राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली
के उपराज्यपाल के नाम व आदेश से,

मधुप व्यास, सचिव (पर्यावरण एवं वन)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND WILDLIFE

NOTIFICATION

Delhi, 23rd, April, 2019

No. F.1(07)/DPGS/C.Case/2017-18/9397-9429.— In exercise of the powers conferred by Rule (5) and Rule(7) of the Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules 2017 notified by MoEF&CC, Govt. of India vide GSR 1203(E) dated 26th September, 2017, the Lt. Governor of Delhi is pleased to constitute Wetlands Authority for the purpose of the conservation and management of wetland for the Union Territory of Delhi consisting of the following members:-

i.	Chief Secretary, Delhi	Chairperson
ii.	Vice Chairman, DDA	Member, Ex-officio
iii.	The Secretary-in-Charge of the Department of Environment	Vice-Chairman
iv.	Pr. Secretary-in-Charge PWD	Member, Ex-officio
v.	The Secretary-in-Charge of the Department of Urban Development	Member, Ex-officio

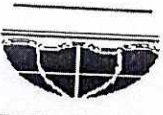
vi.	The Commissioner-cum-Secretary-in-Charge of the Department of Development	Member, Ex-officio
vii.	CEO, Delhi Jal Board	Member, Ex-officio
viii.	The Secretary-in-Charge of the Department of Fisheries	Member, Ex-officio
ix.	The Secretary-in-Charge of the Department of Irrigation & Flood Control	Member, Ex-officio
x.	The Secretary-in-Charge of the Department of Tourism	Member, Ex-officio
xi.	The Secretary-in-Charge of the Departments of Revenue	Member, Ex-officio
xii.	Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Delhi	Member, Ex-officio
xiii.	Managing Director, Geo Spatial Data Limited (GSDL)	Member, Ex-officio
xiv.	Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee	Member, Ex-officio
xv.	Member Secretary, Biodiversity Board of UT	Member, Ex-officio
xvi.	Commissioner of MCD(North, South and East)	Member, Ex-officio
xvii.	Head of Delhi unit of CGWB	Member, Ex-officio
xviii.	Secretary, Delhi Cantonment Board	Member, Ex-officio
xix.	Addl. PCCF of the regional office of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Lucknow	Member, Ex-officio
xx.	Director, Delhi Zoo	Member, Ex-officio
xxi.	Superintendent, Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India	Member, Ex-officio
xxii.	Director, Environment	Member, Ex-officio
xxiii.	Conservator of Forest/CEO(DPGS)	Member Secretary

The following members are nominated as experts :-

- (i) Sh. I.H. Khan, PCCF (Retd.)
- (ii) Sh. Manu Bhatnagar, INTACH
- (iii) Director, DTU/Representative of DTU
- (iv) Director, IARI/Representative of IARI

By Order and in the Name of
Lt. Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi,
MADHUP VYAS, Secy. (Env. & Forest)

By Speed Post/ Email
Urgent / High Court Matter

	DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI 5th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006 visit us at : http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in
---	---

F. No. DPCC/WMC-II/IDMC/2020/ 768-782

Dated: 24.05.2024

Sub: List of 1045 & 322 Water Bodies received from Wetland Authority of Delhi

Sir / Madam,

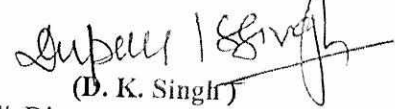
This has reference to the decisions taken by the Integrated Drain Management Cell (IDMC) in its 17th Meeting held on 18.04.2024 w.r.t. orders of Hon'ble High Court dated 08.04.2024 in W.P.(C) No. 7594/2018 in the matter of "Court on its own motion Vs. Union of India & Ors" and W.P.(C) No. 9617/2022 "Court on its own motion Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Ors."

In view of the decisions taken in the said meeting in respect of Water Bodies in Delhi, please find enclosed herewith two lists of 1045 & 322 Water Bodies along with Geo-Coordinates (Latitude, Longitude) received from the Wetland Authority of Delhi for urgent necessary action (Ground Truthing etc.).

It is requested to send the Action Taken Report to this office at the earliest.

This is to be treated as most urgent since Next Date of Hearing in the above mentioned High Court Case is 29.05.2024 and Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT is to attend the said hearing.

Yours Sincerely


(D. K. Singh)

Addl. Director & In-Charge (WMC-II)

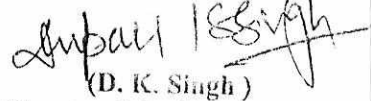
Enclosures : As Above (Through E-mail)

To,

1. District Magistrate (South) M.B. Road, Saket, New Delhi-110068
2. District Magistrate (Central) 14, Darya Ganj, New Delhi- 110002
3. District Magistrate (East) L.M. Bund, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-31
4. District Magistrate (New Delhi) 12/1, Jam Nagar House, Sahajahan Road, New Delhi 110011
5. District Magistrate (North) Alipur, Delhi - 110036
6. District Magistrate (North East) D.C. Office Complex, Nand Nagri, Opposite Gagan Cinema, Delhi-93
7. District Magistrate (North West) Kanjhawala, Delhi - 110081
8. District Magistrate (Shahdara) Nand Nagri, Opposite Gagan Cinema, Delhi-93
9. District Magistrate (South East) Old Gargi College Building, Lajpat Nagar -IV, Delhi -110024
10. District Magistrate (South West) Old Terminal Tax Building Kapashera, New Delhi-37
11. District Magistrate (West) Plot No.3, Shivaji Place, Near West Gate Mall, Raja Garden, Delhi-110027

Copy to:

1. Divisional Commissioner, 5 Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54.
2. Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest), 6th Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi - 02.
3. Member Secretary, Wetland Authority of Delhi, 6th Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P.Estate, Delhi-02.
4. Special Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 10th Level C-Wing, Delhi Sachivalaya, IP Estate, New Delhi


(D. K. Singh)

Addl. Director & In-Charge (WMC-II)

Original Application No. 633/2024 titled as "News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies" appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024.

1 message

Dr Suneesh Buxy <ceodpgsenv.delhi@delhi.gov.in>
To: wmc2dpcc2023 <wmc2dpcc2023@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 10, 2024 at 5:47 PM

Sir,

Please refer your letter dated 04.09.2024.

Wetland Authority of Delhi has requested Revenue Department to complete Ground Truthing of water bodies and submit the data. Data received from Revenue Department has been compiled by Wetland Authority. After scrutiny, it is seen 674 (631 + 43) number of water bodies are found existing on the field. Details are given below:-

S. Nos.	District	No. of Water Bodies (1367)		Ground Truthing of water bodies		Total No. of Visible Water Bodies Out of 1367
		Listed Water Bodies (1045)	Wetlands identified through Satellite imagery (322)	No. of Visible Water Bodies (Out of 1045)	No. of Visible Water Bodies (Out of 322)	
	East	46	4	6	0	6
	North East	32	15	11	0	11
	Shahadara	28	9	6	1	7
	North	196	79	143	0	143
	North West	135	32	100	4	104
	South	135	55	64	14	78
	South East	50	17	22	4	26
	South West	274	56	209	7	216
	West	64	22	39	3	42
	New Delhi	62	12	17	3	20
	Central	23	21	14	7	21
	Total	1045	322	631	43	674

1. That the following action are being taken in compliance to Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 08.04.2024 :
 - (i) Making entries of water bodies in revenue records, by assigning responsibilities of each of such water body to specific officer, who shall visit such water body every fortnight to ensure its upkeep.
 - (ii) Committees responsible for ground truthing and rejuvenation of these water bodies and execution of projects at ground at District Level was constituted.
 - (iii) Cleaning of water bodies through de-silting and removing of floating and other invasive aquatic plant species.

2. That a meeting of Wetland Authority of Delhi has been conducted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GNCTD on 09.08.2024 and the District Magistrates were directed that completion of the restoration of water bodies has to be ensured through the District Committees formed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 08.04.2024 (W.P(C) No. 7594/2018) and it shall be ensured without fail that the work is completed after removal of encroachment before 31.12.2024.

Thanks & Regards

CEO, DPGS/ Member Secretary (Wetland Authority)
Tel. 011-23392736