

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

Original Application No. 639/2022

In the matter of:

Pritipal Sharma ...Applicant

Versus

Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Others ...Respondents

With

Original Application No. 33/2022

Ganresh Prasad ...Applicant

Versus

Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Others ...Respondents

NDOH: 28.05.2025

INDEX

Sl. No.	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Action taken report on behalf of Govt. of NCT of Delhi with respect to order dated 21.03.2025.	1 - 6
2.	<u>Annexure -1</u> Minutes of the meeting dated 22.04.2025 taken by the Chief Secretary, Delhi with all the stakeholder departments.	7 - 11

Filed by

Govt. of NCT of Delhi

Dated: 23rd May, 2025

Place: Delhi

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

Original Application No. 639/2022

In the matter of:

Pritipal Sharma

...Applicant

Versus

Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Others

...Respondents

With

O.A. No. 33/2022

Ganesh Prasad

...Applicant

Versus

Government of NCT of Delhi & Ors.

...Respondents

**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON BEHALF OF GOVERNMENT OF
NCT OF DELHI WITH RESPECT TO THE ORDER DATED
21.03.2025.**

I, K.S. Jayachandran, aged about 48 years, Special Secretary, Environment Department, Government of NCT of Delhi, having office at 6th Level, Delhi Secretariat, ITO, Delhi - 110002, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That, I am working as Special Secretary (Environment) and is conversant with the facts of the present case on the basis of record in its ordinary course.



2. This Hon`ble Tribunal passed detailed order in the above-mentioned matters on 21.03.2025 and following is the direction *qua* Govt of NCT of Delhi in the order:

“ ...
 19. *The Chief Secretary, GNCTD is directed to place such further compliance, as undertaken, before this Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing fixed.*

.....30. *In the course of hearing it has been submitted that the difficulties are being faced in implementation of SOP and sealing of illegal borewells due to multiplicity of the authorities/officers involved and meetings of the District Advisory Committee are not being held regularly. The matter may be looked into by the Chief Secretary, GNCTD. ”*

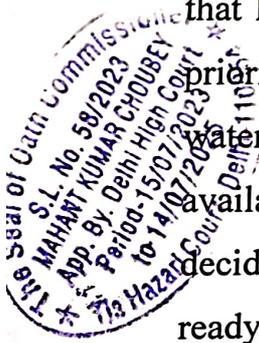
3. That, it is most respectfully submitted that the order dated 08.01.2025 of this Tribunal was placed before the Council of Ministers and the Delhi Cabinet vide its decision no. 3182 dated 15.04.2025 has noted all developments having taken place in the matter and also considered the direction of this Hon`ble National Green Tribunal. The Council of Ministers has directed to ring fence Rs. 70 Crores by the Finance Department, GNCTD to be used by Delhi Pollution Control Committee in future, for the purposes identified by this Hon`ble Tribunal. Further, the Council of Ministers has directed to prepare a new borewell policy to be placed before the Council of Ministers for its consideration at the earliest. Accordingly, the new borewell policy is being prepared and will be submitted before the Council of Ministers for appropriate consideration and outcome of the same will be placed before this Hon`ble Tribunal.

That, the Chief Secretary, Delhi convened another review meeting on 22.04.2025 with all the stakeholder departments including the CEO- Delhi Jal



Board, all the District Magistrates of Delhi and DPCC. Minutes of the meeting dated 22.04.2025 is annexed herewith as **Annexure-1**.

5. That, Revenue Department, GNCTD with respect to preparation of Action Plan for utilization of the amount of Rs. 19,62,95,000/- for rejuvenation of water bodies and recharge of ground water, has informed that Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue)-cum Divisional Commissioner, Govt. of NCT of Delhi had taken two meetings on 07.4.2025 and 22.04.2025 which were attended by District Magistrates and officers of DJB and I&FC. In the meeting, it has been directed to all DMs to prepare draft action plan for their districts for rejuvenation of water bodies and estimates may be obtained from Irrigation and Flood Control Department, GNCTD immediately for the water bodies of Revenue/BDO in the first phase, so that Action Plan can be finalized in consultation with DJB, CGWA, State Wetland Authority and DPCC. The ACS (Revenue)-cum-Divisional Commissioner, took another meeting on 29.4.2025 which was attended by DMs and officers of the other concerned departments. The officer from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department had informed in the meeting that estimates have been prepared as per the instructions given by the district authorities. He further suggested that in case the water body is connected to the dirty water or sewage then STPs is needed and DJB, being the concerned department, should be asked to develop the water body, as a single agency. The representative from CGWA informed that location of water bodies whose estimates are ready may be decided for priority depending upon water table in the district. Further they informed that water bodies development priority may be considered depending upon the availability of fresh/rain/ clean treated water. After detailed discussion, it was decided to forward/share locations of water bodies whose estimates have been ready, with DPCC, DJB, State Wetland Authority and CGWA for providing



valuable suggestion/action plan with regard to rejuvenation of these water bodies. Accordingly, comments/feedback have been sought from DPCC, DJB, State Wetland Authority and CGWA .

6. That, DJB verified total 20297 number of borewells in all revenue district of NCT of Delhi. The detail break up has been filed by Delhi Jal Board before this Hon`ble Tribunal. The status in brief is as under:

Sl. No.	Number of illegal Borewells identified by DJB	Number of illegal Borewells sealed / closed by DMs	Number of illegal borewell yet to be sealed	Number of illegal borewell not traceable/ closed	Number of Court stay
Total	20297	15962	142	4033	160

7. That, in compliance to order dated 21.03.2025, DPCC has paid amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- to the Amicus Curiae on 11.04.2025. Further, DPCC informed that, till 09.05.2025, EC of Rs. 1.19 Cr have been recovered.
8. That, on the matter of recovery of Environment Compensation and action against illegal borewell in compliance to the Tribunal's order dated 08.01.2025, Hon`ble Lt. Governor Delhi, has directed all the DC (Revenue)/DMs to complete the recovery of environmental compensation within 15 days in a mission mode. All the DC(Revenue)/DMs have been directed not only to seal the already identified illegal borewells immediately within the timeframe provided by the Hon'ble Tribunal, but also to further identify and seal all illegal borewells operating within their jurisdiction. Chief Secretary Delhi has been directed to submit a detailed report on the action taken in this regard within 21 days and may recommend suitable action



against the officers responsible for non-implementations of the notification dated 18.05.2010.

9. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) of India established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, to regulate and control the development and management of groundwater resources across India. The CGWA also conducts periodic assessments of groundwater resources to monitor the status of aquifers and determine areas that require regulatory intervention. That the Central Ground Water Board on the depth of underground water table in Delhi in May-2024 in Bulletin mentioned that water table in Delhi exhibits a significant range, from a mere 1.62 meters below ground level (bgl) in Rani Khera within the Rohini district to a substantial 67.77 meters bgl in Gadaipur in the Mehrauli district.

10. That, during the meeting held on 22.4.2025 under Chief Secretary Delhi, in consultation with all stakeholder departments, it has been opined that existing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for regulation of extraction of groundwater, closure, prohibition of illegal activities relating to use of borewells/ tubewells dated 20.07.2020 issued with the approval of Chief Secretary. Delhi is comprehensive and need no changes. Further all stakeholder departments have been directed to comply with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), where clear departmental responsibilities are laid down.

That similar issue of extraction of ground water is also being taken by this Hon`ble Tribunal in EA No. 11/2023 in OA No. 89/2021 Titled as "Varun Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors. This matter was listed before this Hon`ble Tribunal on 08.05.2025, which was adjourned to 08.09.2025 while granting time to GNCTD to file latest updated report.



12. That the present action taken report has the prior approval of Chief Secretary, Delhi. Same may kindly be taken on record.

[Handwritten signature]

DEPONENT
Dr. K.S. Jayachandran, IFS
Spl. Secretary (Environment)
Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi
Delhi Secretariat,
New Delhi-110002

VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, declare the contents of the present affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge based upon the documents and records available in the office and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at New Delhi on this 22nd day of May, 2025.

[Handwritten signature]

DEPONENT
Dr. K.S. Jayachandran, IFS
Spl. Secretary (Environment)
Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi
Delhi Secretariat,
New Delhi-110002

I identify the deponent who has signed in my presence

26/5
The Seal of Oath Commissioner
S.L. No. 58/2023
MAHANT KUMAR CHOUBEY
App. By. Delhi High Court
Period-15/07/2023
to-14/07/2025
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054

CERTIFIED THAT THE DEPONENT
Shri/Smt./Km. *K.S. Jayachandran*
S/o W/o D/o
R/o *Spl. Spl. Secretary*
identified by *[Signature]*
has solemnly sworn at
Delhi on *22/5/2025*
that the contents of the affidavit which have
been read and explained to him are true and
correct to his knowledge

23 MAY 2025
Oath Commissioner Delhi



DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, (GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI)
 5th FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-6
 visit us at : <http://dpcc.delhigovt.nic.in>



7

F. No. DPCC/CMC-III/NGT/OA No-639/2022/ 4011-23

Dated: 20-4-2025

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

In compliance of order of Hon'ble NGT dated 21.03.2025 in O.A. No. 639/2022 in the matter of "Pritpal Sharma Vs Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors." Chief Secretary, Govt of NCT of Delhi has convened a meeting of all the stakeholder departments in the Conference Hall of Chief Secretary at 5th Floor, Delhi Secretariat on 22.04.2025 at 3:00 PM. Minutes of the meeting are enclosed herewith and you are requested to send Action Taken Report in respect of the directions issued by, Hon'ble NGT vide its order dated 21.03.2025.

(Signature)
 (Sunil Kumar)
 Env. Engineer, CMC-III

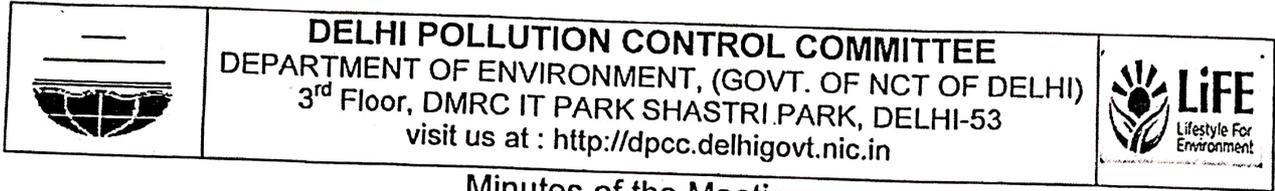
To:

1. Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD, 5 Sham Nath Marg, Delhi-54.
2. Principal Secretary (Environment & Forest), 6th Floor, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi - 02.
3. Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Varunalya Phase-II, Jhandewalan, Delhi-110055.
4. Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority, 18/11, Jamnagar House, Man Singh Roa Area, New Delhi-110011
5. All District Magistrates, GNCTD.
6. Dy. Conservator of Forests(South), Department of Forests and Wildlife, GNCTD, near Dr. Karni Sing Shooting Range, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-110044
7. SDM (Dwarka), Dabri-Gurgaon Raod, Sector-10, Dwarka, Delhi-110075
8. Addl. Director, CMC-III
9. SEE, CMC-II
10. In-charge, Legal Cell

Copy to:

1. Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Govt of NCT of Delhi, 5th level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi- 02- For kind information to the Chief Secretary, GNCTD.
2. PS to Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, GNCTD
3. PS to MS, DPCC, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, GNCTD

(Signature)
 (Sunil Kumar)
 Env. Engineer, CMC-III



Minutes of the Meeting

1. In pursuance of order of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal dated 21.03.2025 in O.A. No. 639/2022 titled as "Pritipal Sharma Vs Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors." and MA Number 24 2023 in OA number 33/2022 titled as, "Ganesh Prasad Vs Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Ors.", a review meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi along with officers of Revenue Department, DJB, CGWA, Environment and DPCC on 22.04.2025 in the Conference Hall on 5th Level at Delhi Secretariat. The list of the participants who attended the meeting is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
 2. Member Secretary, DPCC gave a brief presentation on Hon'ble NGT order dated 21.03.2025 and action required to be taken by stakeholder departments i.e, Revenue Department and DJB and compliances required in matters related to illegal ground water extraction. All the concerned Departments were asked about the compliance of the decisions taken in the meeting held on 17.03.2025. Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, expressed his displeasure on the non-compliance of the directions of Hon'ble NGT as well as decisions taken during the meeting taken on 17.03.2025.
 3. **CEO, Delhi Jal Board** present during the meeting informed about the actions taken by Delhi Jal Board in respect of permissions to borewells. Further, it was apprised that the actions against the illegal borewells was taken on the survey conducted by Delhi Jal Board and this is a continuous process as action is taken as and when any information/complaint against illegal extraction of ground water is received and thereafter as per the Standard Operating Procedure(SOP), list of all such illegal borewells are sent to the concerned District Magistrate and Delhi Pollution Control Committee for further action in respect of sealing of such illegal bore wells and imposition of Environmental Compensation.
 4. **Divisional Commissioner**, informed that they are taking action for sealing of illegal borewells as per list provided by Delhi Jal Board. They also stated that difficulties are being faced with respect to identification of locations of illegal borewells, however, every sincere efforts are being made to trace each and every locations of illegal borewells. They are under process to prepare the action plan for utilization of the fund transferred by DPCC and to be transferred by GNCTD, in terms of the direction passed by Hon'ble Tribunal.
- District Magistrate (North West) stated that during sealing of illegal borewells as per list of Delhi Jal Board, on many locations, no illegal bore wells were found in existence on the said locations due to which it becomes difficult to seal as well as to recover Environmental Compensation from such locations/premises. Some addresses are not traceable or does not exist.

(Signature)

All the District Magistrates requested DJB Officials to depute their representative for identification of such addresses and particulars of the offender as the basic survey was conducted by Delhi Jal Board. The officials of Revenue Department further informed more time is required to recover the remaining amount of Environmental Compensation through arrears of land revenue.

5. **Member Secretary, DPCC** informed that in compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 21.03.2025, Rs. 1 Lakh has been paid to Sh. Raj Panjwani, Sr Advocate, the Amicus Curiae. The cabinet's decision dated 15.04.2025 about ring fencing Rs. 70 crores was also appraised.
6. After detailed discussions in respect of all the directions mentioned in the order dated 21.03.2025 and decisions taken in the meeting held on 22.04.2025, the following decisions were taken:
 - a. It was informed that out of 19611 borewells, about 11364 were sealed and not 12413 as recorded in previous minutes. The District Magistrates were directed to seal the remaining illegal borewells without further delay and submit the updated ATR by 30th April. The District Magistrates informed that the number of sealed borewells has stagnated since the remaining are not existing on ground.
 - b. Delhi Jal Board was directed to verify the total number of illegal borewells out of listed 19611 borewells existing on ground in consultation with District Magistrates.
 - c. It was apprised that total Rs. 1.13 Crores has been recovered so far out of 70.94 Crores. The Concerned District Magistrates were directed to make all arrangements for recovery of Environmental Compensation from the offenders. It was made clear that recovery proceedings should not be kept pending with the District Magistrates and clear timelines shall be submitted. The office of Divisional Commissioner shall compile the recovery figures in the format at Annexure-II and submit within 15 May, 2025, so that affidavit can be filed on time before the next date of hearing (28.05.2025)
 - d. The prosecutions shall be filed by Revenue department against the offenders in terms of the directions contained in the order dated 21.03.2025. DJB to design a common complaint format and submit to office of Divisional Commissioner.
 - e. Revenue Department will prepare the action plan for utilization of the fund transferred by DPCC and to be transferred by GNCTD, in terms of the direction passed by Hon'ble Tribunal within one week after consultation with all stake holder department.
 - f. Delhi Jal Board will establish procedure for monitoring the extraction of ground water in a scientific manner.



- g. Link of webpage where all information is uploaded as per directions of Hon'ble NGT developed by Delhi Jal Board shall be shared with Revenue Department and DPCC for continuous effective action against the violators of illegal ground water extraction.
- h. The existing SOP dated 20.07.2020 was discussed in detail to gather inputs towards amending the SOP and after discussion, it was decided that the existing SOP is comprehensive and need no changes.
- i. It was reiterated that all departments shall comply with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for regulation of extraction of groundwater, closure, prohibition of illegal activities relating to use of borewells/ tubewells dated 20.07.2020 issued with the approval of Chief Secretary, Delhi, where clear departmental responsibilities are laid down.
- j. In compliance to Cabinet Decision no 3182 dated 15.04.2025, a new borewell policy has to be prepared & brought before Council of Minister. Hence stakeholder departments were directed to provide necessary inputs for the preparation of the policy to Department of Environment within 10 days.
- k. DJB was directed to submit a list of areas where habitations are present but there are no piped water supplies which will enable to find reasons/justification for borewells without permission by public and submit action plan in this regard.
- l. **District Magistrates were directed to identify the officials who are responsible toward non-compliance of Hon'ble NGT order.**

Chief Secretary informed all the District Magistrates that compliances of the Hon'ble Tribunal shall be ensured without fail and all-out efforts shall be taken to stop illegal extraction of ground water as per established SOP including necessary compliances to the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal in this regard.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Annexure-II

Name of District	No. of notices/ directions issued for imposition of EDC issued	EDC imposed (in Lakhs)	EDC Recovered (in Lakhs)
Shahdara	552	433.7	
South West	6596	2308.5	
South	13	13.36	
North- West	9020	3364.1	
New Delhi	206	80.4	
North	768	339.6	
West	768	270.9	
Central	618	284.3	