

2
BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 593 OF 2025

In the matter of:

News item titled, "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025.

Index

S. No	Particulars	Page No.
1.	Response on behalf of respondent no.3 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 24.11.2025 in O.A. No. 593/2025.	
2.	Annexure I- A copy of letter dated 18.12.2025 issued by CPCB to CGWA & CGWB.	
3.	Annexure II- A copy of email dated 06.01.2026	



Filed by Advocate Suman Arora
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

Place: Delhi

Dated: 16.02.2026

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 593 OF 2025

In the matter of:

News item titled, "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025.

**RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 3 CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB),**

Most respectfully showeth:

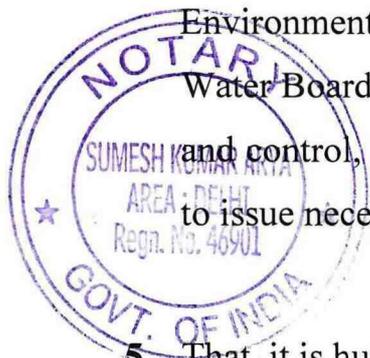
BACKGROUND:

1. This original application is registered suo-motu on the basis of the news item titled "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025. It is reported in the said news item that satellite data of 2015-2023 shows India's five mega-cities are subsiding by over 5cm a year in some areas. Researchers warn that without stricter groundwater control and urban planning thousands of buildings could face serious structural damage. Further, the Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 24.11.2025 impleaded the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) as Respondent no. 3 in the aforesaid OA. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That CPCB is constituted under 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 to as "water Act, 1974"); The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as "Air Act, 1981") and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. That the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to as “SPCB/PCCs”) have been constituted in States/Union Territories under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 and are empowered to perform functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of territories falling in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

SUBMISSIONS BY CPCB:

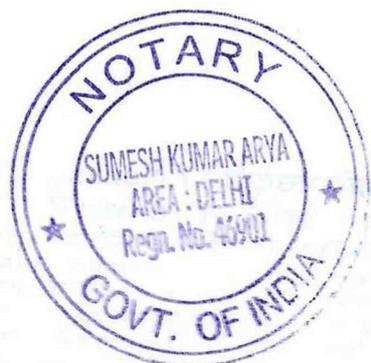
4. That, it is humbly submitted that by Notification S.O.38 (E) dated 14.01.1997, the Central Government, in exercise of the power under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, has constituted the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority (i.e. Central Ground Water Authority) to regulate and control, management and development of ground water in the country and to issue necessary regulatory directions for this purpose.



5. That, it is humbly submitted that Ground water quality monitoring is carried out comprehensively by Central Ground Water Board. CPCB is also monitoring ground water quality under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 1271 locations in the country. CPCB periodically review water quality data of aquatic resources monitored under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). Based on the water quality data of Ground Water locations under NWMP for the year 2023, critical parameters, such as Nitrate, Nitrite, TDS, Fluoride, and Arsenic, etc. were compared with Drinking Water Specification (IS 10050:2012) and exceedance was observed at some of the ground water locations require attention. CPCB issued letter dated 14.01.2025 with regard to the non-complying ground water locations and requested concerned SPCBs/PCCs to identify sources of pollution at non-complying locations and take necessary actions such as –

- i. Sealing of hand pumps/ wells having contaminated ground water.

- ii. Display sign board indicating (Not Fit for Drinking Water purposes) in vernacular language.
 - iii. Arrangement of alternate drinking water supply in the affected areas.
6. CPCB has no information with regard to subsidence due to depletion of ground water. However, in view of the directions of Hon'ble NGT, CPCB vide letter dated 18.12.2025 sought information from Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) on the subject matter. Copies of CPCB's letters to CGWA and CGWB are enclosed as **Annexure I** (Colly.). Response from the both the authorities is awaited.
7. That, CGWA also vide email dated 18.12.2025 sought inputs from CPCB on the afore-mentioned Hon'ble NGT matter. In view of no information available with regard to subsidence due to depletion of ground water, CPCB replied vide e-mail dated 06.01.2026 that there were no inputs from CPCB on the subject matter of land subsidence. Copy of said e-mails are attached as **Annexure II**.
8. That the answering respondent craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply, if directed, in future.
9. 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 Tribunal in the instant OA.



ATTESTED
 NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI
 GOVT. OF INDIA
 16 FEB 2026

Nazimuddin
 (Nazimuddin)
 Scientist 'F'
 Central Pollution Control Board
 16.02.2026

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 593 OF 2025**

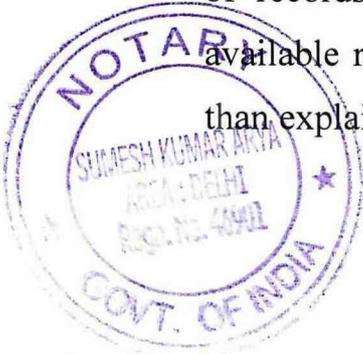
In the matter of:

News item titled, "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nazimuddin** working as **Scientist 'F'** in CPCB, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and 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 response may be read as part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying response has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of records maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over than explained to me. The same are not repeated for the sake of brevity.



Nazim

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:

Verified at Delhi on this _____ day of _____ 2026 that the contents above are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

hargun

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

**ATTESTED**

NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI
GOVT. OF INDIA

16 FEB 2026



8

Annexure-I

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

F No. A-14011/1/2025 - WQM - I / 177

18.12.2025

To

The Member Secretary,
Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)
Ministry of Jal Shakti, CSMRS Campus,
Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
mcgwa-cgwb@nic.in, cgwa@nic.in

Sub: Hon'ble NGT order dated 24.11.2025 in O.A No. 593/2025 Newspaper report titled "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025 -reg.

Sir,

This is in reference to 24.11.2025 in O.A No. 593/2025 Newspaper report titled "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025 vide which Hon'ble NGT impleaded CGWA and CPCB along with other organizations and directed to file response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing i.e. 17.02.2026. (copy of NGT order is enclosed for ready reference).

It is requested to provide comments on the issue highlighted in the court matter urgently as the subject primarily pertains to CGWB and CGWA, whereas CPCB also is to file appropriate reply in compliance to the above- mentioned Hon'ble NGT matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM -I Div.

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



9

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

F No. A-14011/1/2025 - WQM - I 1177

18.12.2025

To

The Member,
Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)
Bhujal Bhawan, NH-IV,
Faridabad - 121001

Sub: Hon'ble NGT order dated 24.11.2025 in O.A No. 593/2025 Newspaper report titled "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025 -reg.

Sir,

This is in reference to 24.11.2025 in O.A No. 593/2025 Newspaper report titled "Delhi Mumbai Kolkata Chennai. Why our metros are going under" appearing in the Times of India (Kolkata) dated 13.11.2025 vide which Hon'ble NGT impleaded CGWA and CPCB along with other organizations and directed to file response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing i.e. 17.02.2026. (copy of NGT order is enclosed for ready reference).

It is requested to provide comments on the issue highlighted in the court matter urgently as the subject primarily pertains to CGWB and CGWA, whereas CPCB also is to file appropriate reply in compliance to the above- mentioned Hon'ble NGT matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM -I Div.

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

Re: Fwd: NOTICE in Original Application No. 593/2025 📌
 DEEPA KUMARI <deepa.cpcb@gov.in>
 Tue, 06 Jan 2026 1:09:21 PM +0530Sent
 "cgwa-legalcell"<cgwa-legalcell@gov.in>
 "NGTPB, CPCB"<ngtpb.cpcb@gov.in>,"Nazim Uddin"<nazim.cpcb@nic.in>,"VISHAL
 GANDHI"<vishalgandhi.cpcb@nic.in>,"Alpana Narula"<alpananarula.cpcb@gov.in>

Sir,

With reference to the trailing mail, I am directed to inform that the there are no inputs from CPCB as the subject of land subsidence does come under the purview of CPCB.

Regards,
 WQM-I Division

===== Forwarded message =====

From: CGWA Legalcell <cgwa-legalcell@gov.in>
 To: "M.Sivakumar Regional Director"<rdsecr-cgwb@nic.in>, "Raja Ram Purohit"<oiend-cgwb@nic.in>, "ANADI GAYEN"<rder-cgwb@nic.in>, "rdcr-cgwb"<rdcr-cgwb@nic.in>, "info"<info@dmrc.org>, "contact"<contact@mmrc.com>, "md"<md@kmrc.in>, "chennaietrorail"<chennaietrorail@cmrl.in>, "ceodelhi.djb"<ceodelhi.djb@nic.in>, "wrldsec"<wrldsec@tn.gov.in>
 Cc: "mscbpcb"<mscb.cpcb@nic.in>, "secy-moef"<secy-moef@nic.in>, "mswbpcb-wb"<ms.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in>, "tnpcb-chn"<tnpcb-chn@gov.in>, "netwbpcb-wb"<net.wbpcb-wb@bangla.gov.in>, "grievance"<grievance@tnpcb.gov.in>, "ms"<ms@wbpcb.gov.in>, "msdpcc"<msdpcc@nic.in>, "memsec"<memsec@tnpcb.gov.in>, "mvermadv"<mvermadv@gmail.com>, "Pratul Saxena"<mcgwa-cgwb@gov.in>, "Bhushan Ramkrishna Lamsoge"<rdocgwa-cgwb@nic.in>, "VIKAS RANJAN"<vikasranjan-cgwb@gov.in>, "VINOD KUMAR DHAUNDIYAL"<vk.dhaundiyal-cgwb@gov.in>
 Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2025 17:29:27 +0530

Subject: Fwd: NOTICE in Original Application No. 593/2025 📌

===== Forwarded message =====

महोदया /महोदय,

Please refer to the trailing mail and find attached herewith copy of the order dated 24.11.2025 passed by Hon'ble NGT PB, New Delhi along with other documents in the captioned matter, which is self explanatory it is therefore requested to provide/offer, comments/inputs to the CGWA for further action at this end. Inputs/comments may be provided to CGWA, New Delhi by the last week of January, 2026.

सस्नेह/Regards

O/o सदस्य सचिव Member Secretary,

केंद्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण(लीगल सेल)/ Central Ground Water Authority (**Legal Cell**)

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार /Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India

18/11, जामनगर हाउस, मानसिंह रोड, नई दिल्ली-110011/

18/11, Jamnagar House, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011

Ph- (011) 23383824; Fax- (011) 23382051;

e-mail: cgwa@nic.in; cgwa-legalcell@gov.in