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

**Rejoinder by Applicant**

In

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 418 OF 2025**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**Priyank Bharati**

**APPLICANT IN PERSON**


**Versus**

**Union of India and ors.**

**RESPONDENTS**

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**Priyank Bharati**

**Applicant in Person**

**Date : 24.05.2026**

**Place : Meerut**

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**Rejoinder by Applicant in compliance of order passed by Hon'ble NGT,  
New Delhi on 17.02.2026**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH;**

I, Priyank Bharati, aged about 38 years, resident of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That on **17.02.2026**, the Hon'ble Tribunal, in its order, stated that:

*17. It will open to the Applicant to file the Rejoinder to these reports within four weeks.*

2. That the present Original Application pertains exclusively to the Upper Ganga stretch up to District Hapur (at judicial record page no 10) and not to the stretch extending from **Unnao to Ballia**. **Respondent Nos. 5 and 9 are attempting to divert and enlarge** the scope of the present matter beyond its original jurisdiction and subject matter.

3. That this Hon'ble Tribunal, in the matter titled M.C. Mehta v. Union of India & Others (OA 200/2014), was pleased to pass the Judgment/Order dated 13.07.2017.

*16. The State Government, its instrumentalities, Departments and concerned public authorities shall ensure that there are no encroachments, unauthorized illegal constructions on the banks/flood plain of the major drains, river Ganga and its tributaries. Preferably, these areas should be utilized for creation of a Green Belt and biodiversity park, etc. (natural fringes of effluent and sewage).*

*30. We order and direct that the State Government, its instrumentalities, Departments and concerned public authorities shall ensure, wherever possible, adjacent to and on the floodplain of river Ganga and its tributaries, it shall cre-ate the Green Belt by plantation of the endemic species and protect the Green Belt areas from any encroachment and illegal and/or unauthorised construction.*

**Objection to the report submitted by Respondent No 5 and 9 on date 26.11.25**

- 4. That Respondent Nos. 5 and 9, as mentioned at page 93 of the judicial record, have stated that ...**

*7. That the process of physical demarcation Ganga River from Haridwar to Unnao (Segment B- Phase-1) has been completed using LiDAR technology on the basis of 1:5 and 1:25 flood frequency.*

However, **in contradiction thereto**, in the matter of OA No. 515 of 2023, *Ganga Pollution vs. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.*, the State itself placed a report before the Hon'ble Tribunal on 24.05.2024, forming part of the judicial record at page 4283, wherein it was stated that

*The 2019 study by CWC used SRTM 90 m Digital Elevation Model (DEM) with corrections for river profiles for Phase-I of River Ganga from Haridwar to Unnao. This approach will be replicated, using LiDAR DEM (1 meter resolution) which is better than SRTM data.*

Both the statements are contradictory and inconsistent in nature.

5. That the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) submitted its final report titled **“Study to Identify and Demarcate the Flood Plains of River Ganga in Segment-B of Phase-I (Haridwar to Unnao)”** in the matter of ***Ganga Pollution vs. State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors., OA No. 515 of 2023, on 11.09.2024.*** The same report was also placed on record by the **State of Uttar Pradesh through the Special Secretary, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh**, in the said matter on 07.07.2024, forming part of the judicial record at pages 4305–4323. The said report (as per NMCG, pg 4746-4767) is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE 1.**

**Point no 12-16, judicial record at page no.95-98**

6. That at **Point No. 12** of the judicial record, **at page no. 95**, under the heading “Immediate and Time-Bound Removal of Encroachments,” **Respondent Nos. 5 and 9 have failed** to place on record before this **Hon’ble Tribunal any document, report, or data indicating the extent of encroachments removed by the District Ganga Committees** in district mentioned in present OA. Since the **burden of proof squarely lies upon the Respondents.**
7. That the Applicant had submitted an application under the **Right to Information Act, 2005 before the State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG), Lucknow**, seeking information regarding removal of encroachments from River Ganga tributary Budhi Ganga. However, no substantive reply has been furnished by SMCG till date. It is pertinent to state that SMCG merely forwarded a communication to the Irrigation Department and failed to address or communicate the

matter to the concerned District Ganga Committee (in short DGC)/ or no reply from DGC. Despite lapse of considerable time, the specific information sought by the Applicant remains unanswered. The RTI Application and reply by Irrigation Department are attached herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE 2**.

8. That the Applicant has submitted several representations, from the office of the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh (Respondent No. 5) to the Chairman, District Ganga Committee (DGC), regarding the encroachment upon the River Ganga tributary (in the matter of OA 511/2023); however, no effective action has been taken till date. **That no effective action has been taken by the Chairman, DGC Meerut, the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh and Board of Revenue Lucknow with regard to the issue of encroachments.** The email is attached herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE 3**.

9. That the District Ganga Committee has failed to take appropriate and effective action against encroachments and illegal constructions existing over River Ganga and its tributaries, as specifically mentioned in the present Original Application (OA), thereby causing continued environmental degradation and violation of applicable environmental laws and river protection norms.

10. That in the present matter, the Dahrli cloudburst and/or heavy rainfall events have caused severe devastation in various regions, and the situation in several villages situated along the banks and active flood plains of River Ganga in Districts Bijnor, Meerut, and Hapur has become extremely critical. It is submitted that if the contents of the affidavits filed by the Respondents are presumed to be correct, the same stand in contradiction to the prevailing ground realities and media reports concerning the flood-affected areas.

11. That it is further submitted that the residents of villages located within or adjoining the flood plains of River Ganga are continuously exposed to imminent threats of flooding, erosion, ecological degradation, and displacement during periods of heavy rainfall and increased river discharge. Such conditions also indicate non-

compliance with the environmental safeguards, flood plain protection measures, and river regulation principles contemplated under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, as well as the principles of sustainable development, precautionary principle, and environmental protection recognized under environmental jurisprudence. The media reports relating to District Meerut and Google Earth Pro images are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE-4**

12. That the Applicant had taken photographs during the floods of year 2025 in Tehsil Mawana, District Meerut, which depict the critical environmental and ground conditions of the affected area, including flood impacts and ecological degradation. The said photographs indicate lack of proper field verification before submission of affidavits, contrary to environmental norms and **principles of sustainable development and due diligence**. The photographs along GI coordinates are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE-5**.

**Point Nos. 18 and 19 on the judicial record at pages 98-99.**

13. That point no. 18 of the affidavit states that:

*That it is further relevant to mention that the Secretary, Revenue Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in his comments recorded on the file dated 20.11.2025, stated that which is in continuation of the letter of the Commissioner and Secretary, Board of Revenue, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, dated 20.11.2025, wherein it has been stated that there exists no provision for allotment of river land under the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006 (as amended), as prescribed under the category of land mentioned in Section 77(1) of the said Act, nor can any Bhumidari rights can be created.*

However, **the Respondents have once again failed to place on record the relevant revenue records (since from Khatauni Phasli Year 1359 ) pertaining to River Ganga and its tributaries** (Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur).

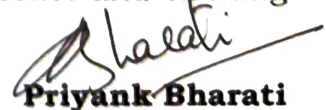
- 14.** That, it is submitted that the Constitution of India as well as the applicable Land Revenue Laws provide protection to rivers, streams, and other water bodies; however, the ground reality reflects a grave and alarming situation, with continued neglect and inadequate implementation of such statutory protections.
- 15.** That in the other matter pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal, being **Original Application No. 511/2023 Priyank Bharati vs. State of Uttar Pradesh through its Chief Secretary & Ors.**, the Applicant had placed on record documentary evidence regarding illegal allotment, sale-purchase, and mutation of riverbed and jheel/wetland land in Tehsil Mawana, District Meerut. However, no effective action has been taken by the **Board of Revenue, Uttar Pradesh** (Respondent No. 7, namely the Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue, Government of Uttar Pradesh). Till date, the illegal sale-purchase and mutation proceedings of river and wetland land continue unabated, causing serious environmental degradation and violation of the Public Trust Doctrine and environmental norms.

For all the reasons stated above the Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased to take cognizance of all these facts and to pass appropriate orders to meet the ends of Justice and equity.

AND FOR THIS ACT OF KINDNESS THE APPLICANTS, AS IN DUTY BOUND, SHALL EVER PRAY.

**Verification**

Verified on this **24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026** that the contents of the present Application are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material is concealed therefrom.

  
**Priyank Bharati**

**Applicant in Person**

**Date: 24.05.2026**

**Place: Meerut**

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**RESPONDENTS**

**Affidavit**

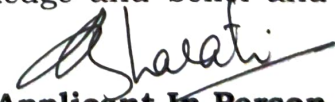
I, Priyank Bharati , S/o, Shri. Brahampal Singh Singh aged about 38years,  
R/o Meerut, Uttar Pradesh do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am the Applicant/Applicant In Person in above mentioned application and I am fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and therefore competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That, the statements made in above paragraphs of this affidavit is true to my knowledge

  
**Applicant In Person**

**VERIFICATION**

Verified on this **24<sup>th</sup>** **day of May** **2026** that the contents of the present Application are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material is concealed therefrom.

  
**Applicant In Person**

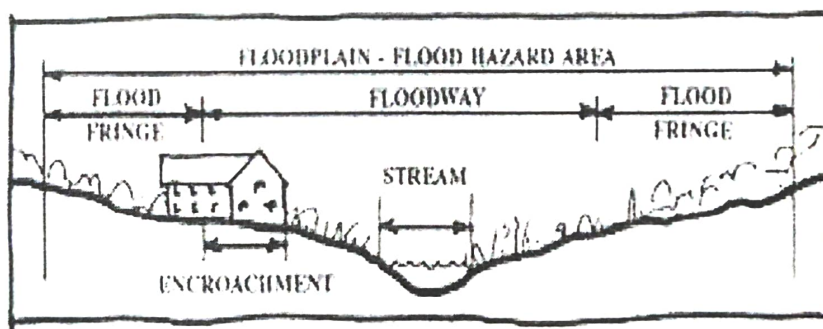
**/Deponent**

Annexure 1 ~~ANNEXURE 2~~

Final Report



STUDY TO IDENTIFY AND DEMARCATe  
THE FLOOD PLAINS OF RIVER GANGA  
IN SEGMENT B OF PHASE I  
(HARIDWAR TO UNNAO)



Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Department of Water resources, River development & Ganga Rejuvenation

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Report on identification and demarcation of the flood plains of river Ganga  
in segment B of Phase- I (Haridwar to Unnao)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Floods constitute one of the major national calamities faced by India almost every year resulting in substantial loss of life, large scale damage to property, disruption of community lifelines besides entailing untold misery to the millions. Concerted efforts have been made over the years to reduce the damage due to floods and mitigate the sufferings of the people. Various structural flood control measures were taken up in the past including construction of reservoirs, embankments, drainage channels, etc. It is, however, now realised that absolute and permanent protection to all flood prone areas and for all magnitudes of floods by structural measures alone is not only impossible but also not economically viable. The emphasis has therefore been rightly shifted to non-structural measures like Flood Plain Zoning and Regulation, Flood Forecasting, etc., to effectively supplement the structural measures for providing sustainable protection to flood affected areas.

The broad concept in flood plain zoning is to regulate the land use in order to mitigate the damage potential. The role of flood plains and need for flood plain zoning was recognised by the Central Water Commission (CWC) as early as 1975. CWC had prepared a Model Floodplain Zoning Bill for adaptation by states but it did not receive due attention of states.

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

In pursuance to the directions contained in the judgment passed by Hon'ble NGT on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017, in respect of Phase-I, Segment 'B' of River Ganga (Haridwar to Unnao), Ministry of Water resources, River development & Ganga Rejuvenation constituted a special committee vide OM T-12/2017-18/268/NMCG dated 01.07.2017 (copy enclosed as Annexure-1) with following scope:

- a) Identify and demarcate the flood plains of river Ganga in segment B of Phase- I on one in twenty five year's cycle or appropriately.
- b) Identify no development /construction zone, regulatory zone and the activities that can be /cannot be carried on in the regulatory zone of the floodplain.

The first meeting of the committee was held under the chairmanship of Member (WP&P), CWC on 05.12.2017 (Annexure-2), wherein it was decided to constitute a core group to carry out following task:

- Data collection and compilation of available information

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- Identification of flood event dates corresponding to 2, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 return period and supplying the same to NRSC for further analysis
- Processing of collected information

Using the available datasets and latest modelling techniques, a presentation on flood plain demarcation for the reach from Haridwar to Unnao was made to the committee during the second meeting held at CWC HQ on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (Annexure-3). The committee decided to prepare an interim report based on the analysis done so far mentioning the assumption made and/or limitations of the study.

Further on the basis of the discussion held during the third meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018 (Annexure-4), it was decided to re-examine the flood frequency analysis and validate the study by incorporating details of embankments, cross-section of river at every 5 Km interval upto 1 m above HFL, to be provided by Irrigation department, Govt. of U.P.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019 (Annexure-5), the core group presented 3 types of flood demarcation analysis viz. Fully based on Satellite, Fully based on Model with DEM reconditioning and Hybrid approach. It was decided to carry out the ground truth verification by Irrigation department, Govt. of U.P. in consultation with core group/ officers in field offices of CWC/ GFCC

In compliance to the decision taken in the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the ground truth verification was done in 3 phases i.e. (from 07.05.2019 to 08.05.2019, 15.05.2019 to 17.05.2019, 11.06.2019). The report of the same is enclosed as Annexure-6.

Subsequent to completion of exercise of ground truth verification, the report was revised on the basis of the recommendations of the joint team constituted for ground truth verification. The report, including the activities that can be/cannot be carried out in the No development / Regulatory zones of the floodplain, was presented during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Special Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

Taking into consideration the findings of ground truth report, embankment data provided by U.P. Govt., other datasets/information and comments of the participants received during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the report on demarcation of floodplains along with the activities to be carried out in such demarcation zones has been finalized.

## 2. DATA USED

Following data/information was used:

- 90m Digital elevation model (DEM) from Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) of United States.
- Analyzed Satellite datasets of Joint Research Commission- European Commission for the period from (1984-2015)

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- Cartosat 30 m DEM from Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
- Historical Annual Peak discharge data of CWC sites.
- Satellite images of flood events from National Remote Sensing Centre.
- Embankment data provided by Irrigation Department, Govt. of U.P.

### 3. SOFTWARE USED

#### 3.1 MIKE FLOOD

It includes a wide selection of specialized 1D and 2D flood simulation engines, enabling to model any flood problem - whether it involves rivers, floodplains, flooding in streets, drainage networks, coastal areas, dams, levee and dike breaches, or any combination of these. MIKE FLOOD is capable to generate dynamic flood depth maps and velocity distribution (spatially) maps of flood water propagation.

There are several advantages of applying models like MIKE FLOOD. It provides more reliable and accurate flood maps and flood hazard maps, than simpler methods like superimposing static water level maps on topographic maps. It simulates water levels accurately taking into account backwater effects from e.g. obstructions on the flood plain, and simulates correctly pathways, which may not necessarily be the shortest and direct distance between e.g. the river and the point of concern.

This technique requires a fine resolution land terrain model. The land terrain model, HD model are dynamically linked in MIKE FLOOD, and generate flood depth map and flood velocity map in every time step of its computation process.

#### 3.2 ARCGIS

It is a geographic information system (GIS) for working with maps and geographic information. It is used for creating and using maps, compiling geographic data, analyzing mapped information, sharing and discovering geographic information, using maps and geographic information in a range of applications, and managing geographic information in a database.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

All the relevant information were collected from various agencies and then analyzed in the following manner:

#### 4.1 FLOOD FREQUENCY ANALYSIS

The flood frequency analysis was carried out by Hydrology North, CWC. Various distribution viz. 2-Parameter log Normal, 3-Parameter log Normal, 2-Parameters Gamma, Log Pearson Type-III and Gumble have been used to derive return period flood and details of which are mentioned in Annexure-9. The average historical data availability was around 40 years. The results are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Flood Frequency Analysis

S.No	Station	Distribution	Magnitudes (m <sup>3</sup> /s) for different return period flood					
			2 yr	3 yr	10 yr	25 yr	50 yr	100 yr
1	Rishikesh	Gumbel	5240	6286	8914	10763	12135	13497
2	Garhmukteshwar	2-Parameter log Normal	4631	5535	7870	9555	10832	12125
3	Kachla Bridge	Gumbel	6140	7168	9751	11569	12917	14255
4	Fatchgarh	Gumbel	4594	5737	8608	10628	12126	13614
5	Ankinghat	Log Pearson III	7117	8597	11687	13377	14426	15326
6	Kanpur	2-Parameter Gamma	7984	9506	13057	15348	16962	18507

#### 4.2 SATELLITE DATA SELECTION

1. Based on the CWC records, dates for some high flood events in the recent past were identified for collecting satellite imagery data from NRSC.

NRSC provided satellite images for two flood events dated on 18-19 June 2013 and 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 through their web messaging service (WMS). Using GIS software, outer envelope of flood extent was digitized manually.

2. Joint Research Centre- European Commission have analyzed Landsat multispectral Satellite images of past 31 years (1984-2015) for deriving frequency with which water returns from year to year i.e. recurrence interval. The same has been used in the study through Google Earth Engine platform.

#### 4.3 DIGITAL ELEVATION MODEL SELECTION

SRTM 90 m and Cartosat 30 m DEM available in public domain were considered for the study area. The Cartosat data downloaded from the NRSC website was vertically referenced to some other vertical datum which was further corrected to the desired projection as informed by NRSC in the third meeting. It was noticed that SRTM 90 m DEM was relatively better representing elevation value and was therefore selected for use in the model. Given the hardware and software available with the core group and size of the study area, the 90m resolution was found to be more optimal for simulation. The comparison of elevation values of few selected stations in the study area is shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Spot Height Analysis

Station	Spot Heights(m)		
	SRTM	Cartosat	Difference
Ankinghat	127	121.6	5.4
Garhmuketshwar	201	199	2
Fatehgarh	138	135.8	2.2
Kachhalabridge	161	164.5	-3.5
Kanpur	115	111.5	3.5
Haridwar	294	293.7	0.3

Further, core group also referred few research papers and it was found that SRTM is widely used in the scientific community as its spot height accuracy seems to be good for all kind of terrains as mentioned in the paper (Annexure-10).

#### 4.4 DEM REFINEMENT:

SRTM DEM 90 m was further processed to improve the river profile below the water surface, since SRTM does not capture the same. To achieve this, lean season satellite imageries for last 30 years, representing the river portion only was adjusted according to the average mean depth based on the cross section data of CWC at six gauging locations.

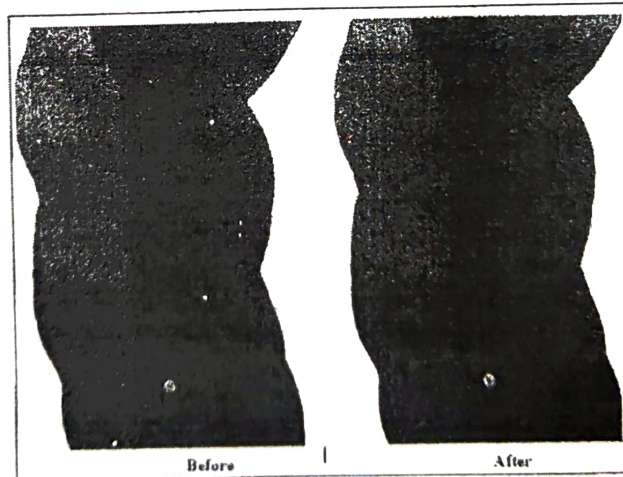


Figure 1: DEM refinement - River Bathymetry

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#### 4.5 MODELLING METHODOLOGY

Using the SRTM 90m DEM and the outputs of flood frequency analysis, a coupled hydrodynamic model - one dimensional (1D) and two dimensional (2D) was setup (Figure 1).

The details of setup are as under :

- Upstream branch to provide constant flood magnitude equal to the given return period at rishikesh using a 1D model.
- Downstream branch for draining the flow from dalmu using a 1D model.
- Flood plain bathymetry for routing the flows between rishikesh and dalmu using a 2D Hydrodynamic modeling.
- Five flow locations (Garhmukteshwar, Kachla Bridge, Fatehgarh, Ankinghat and Kanpur) in 2D model for maintating constant river flows equal to the given return period flood magnitude.
- 2D domain was represented by finite difference rectangular grid (MIKE 21 "classic")

Steady state analysis was performed to workout the extent of floodplain for various return period flood.

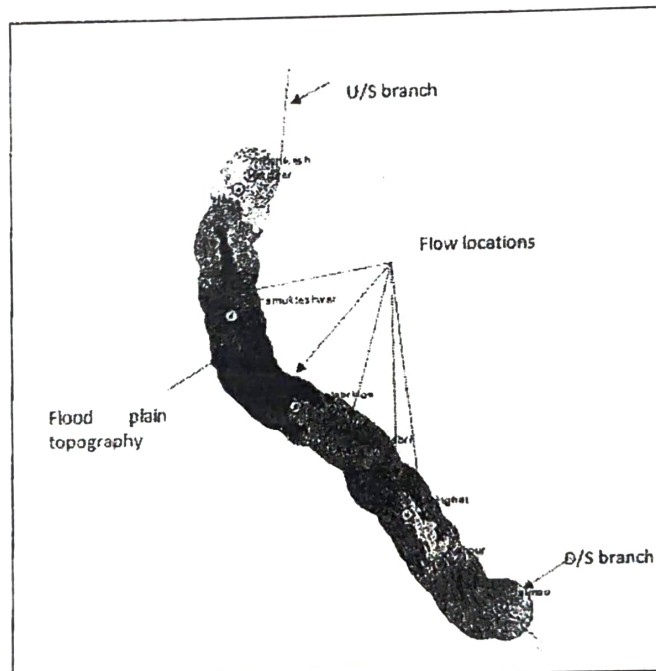


Figure 2: Model Setup

### 5. Approaches analyzed for flood plain demarcation

#### 5.1 Flood Plain Demarcation based on Satellite Data/Images

##### 5.1.1 No Development Zone

Satellite data of past 31 years (1984-2015) of JRC (Joint Research Centre-European Commission) was taken for study to demarcate flood boundary based on recurrence interval. It was found that the flood extent corresponding to recurrence interval of 2, 3 & 5 years were most frequent with little difference in spatial extent. This was mainly due to presence of embankment and braided nature of the river. It was thus considered most appropriate for No-Development Zone which is also in-line with the NDMA guidelines for *Management of floods, 2008*

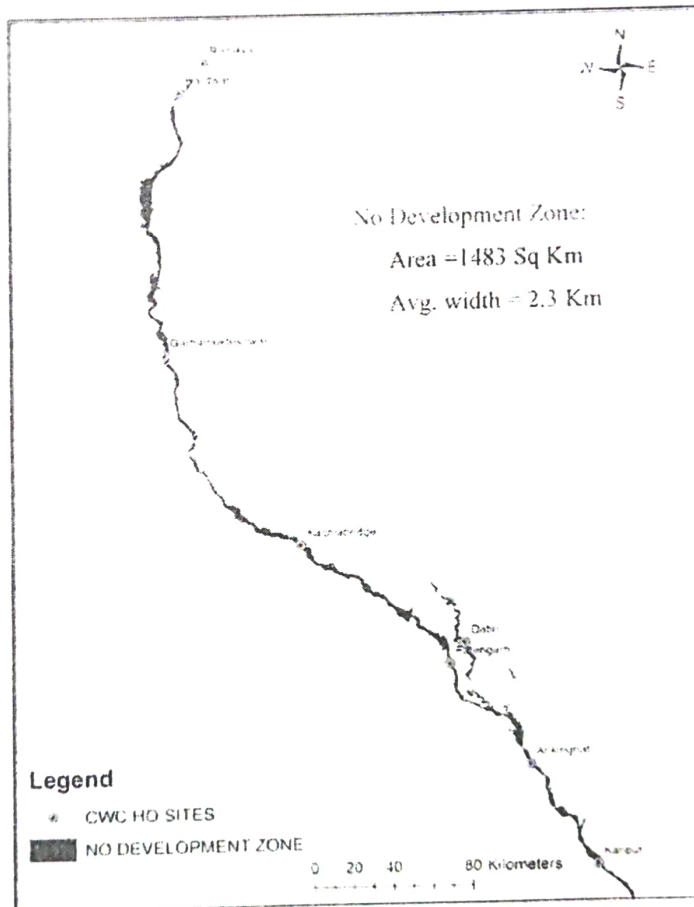


Figure 3: No Development zone based on Satellite datasets

5.1.2 Regulatory Zone

Outer envelope of flood extent on the satellite images provided by NRSC was digitized manually. The outer extent of Satellite images for two flood events dated on 18-19 June 2013 and 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 which was found to be near to 25 year return flows has been considered for as Regulatory Zone demarcation. This accounts for both protected i.e. embanked as well as unprotected flood plain area in the study reach.

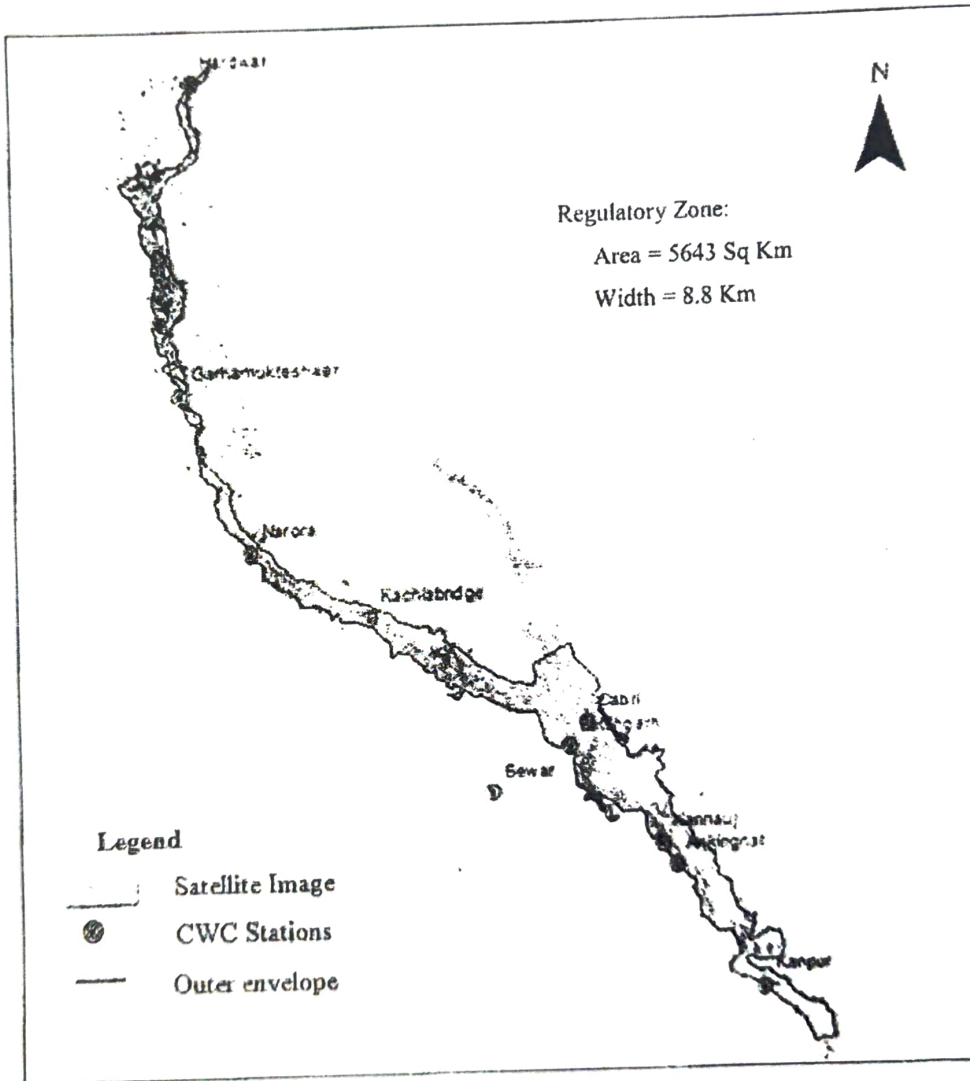


Figure 4: Satellite derived Floodplain- Outer extent of Regulatory Zone

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5.2 Model based Flood Plain Demarcation

The SRTM 90m DEM used for modeling was further processed to cater for the sub-surface river bathymetry which was not accounted in the original DEM. The final model results show many small islands within the flood extent causing inundation gaps. These gaps have been filled to get final inundation area.

No Development Zone - Based on 2-Year Return Period Flood (without Embankment)  
Regulatory Zone - Based on 25 Year Return Period Flood (without Embankment)

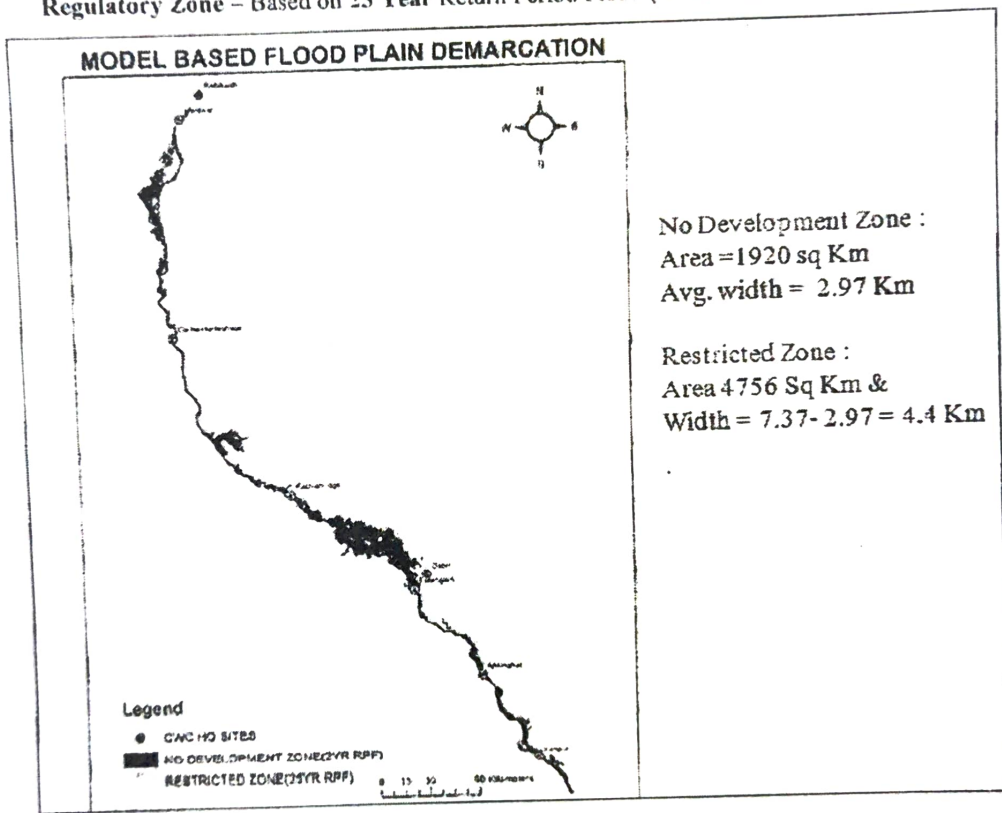


Figure 5: Floodplain Demarcation based on Model Result

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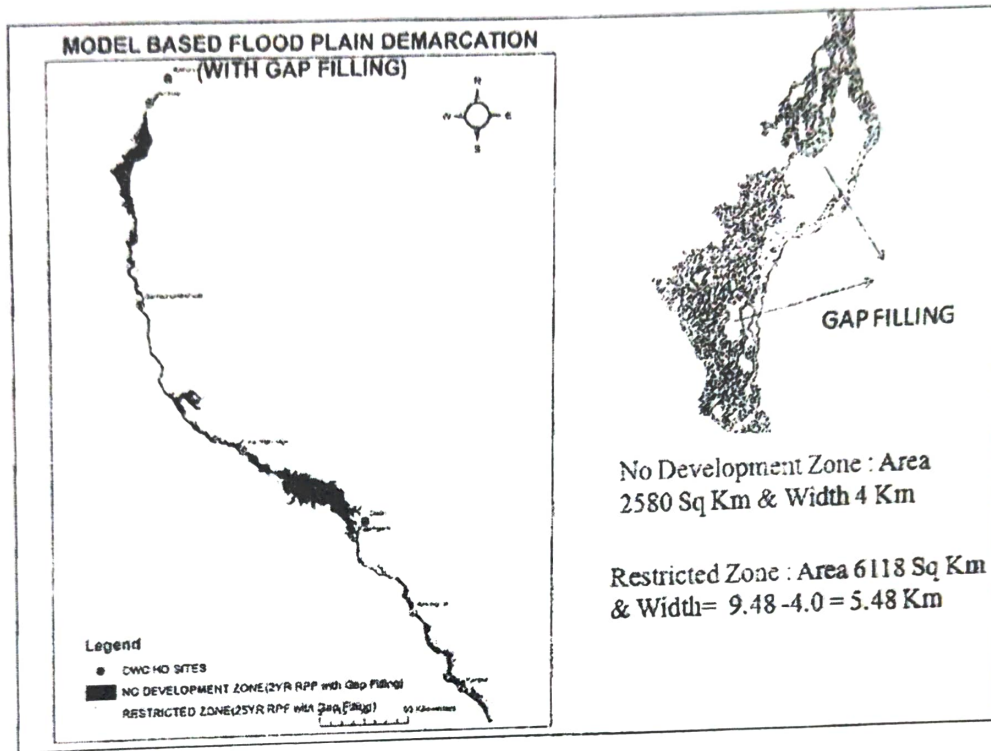


Figure 6: Model Based Flood Plain Demarcation with Gap filling

5.3 Hybrid Approach for Flood Plain Demarcation:

The results of satellite analysis and modelling have their own limitation. Satellite may not cover the full flood event and model results are subjected to DEM quality. Therefore hybrid approach has been adopted by combining both the results by taking union of the areas obtained from both the results.

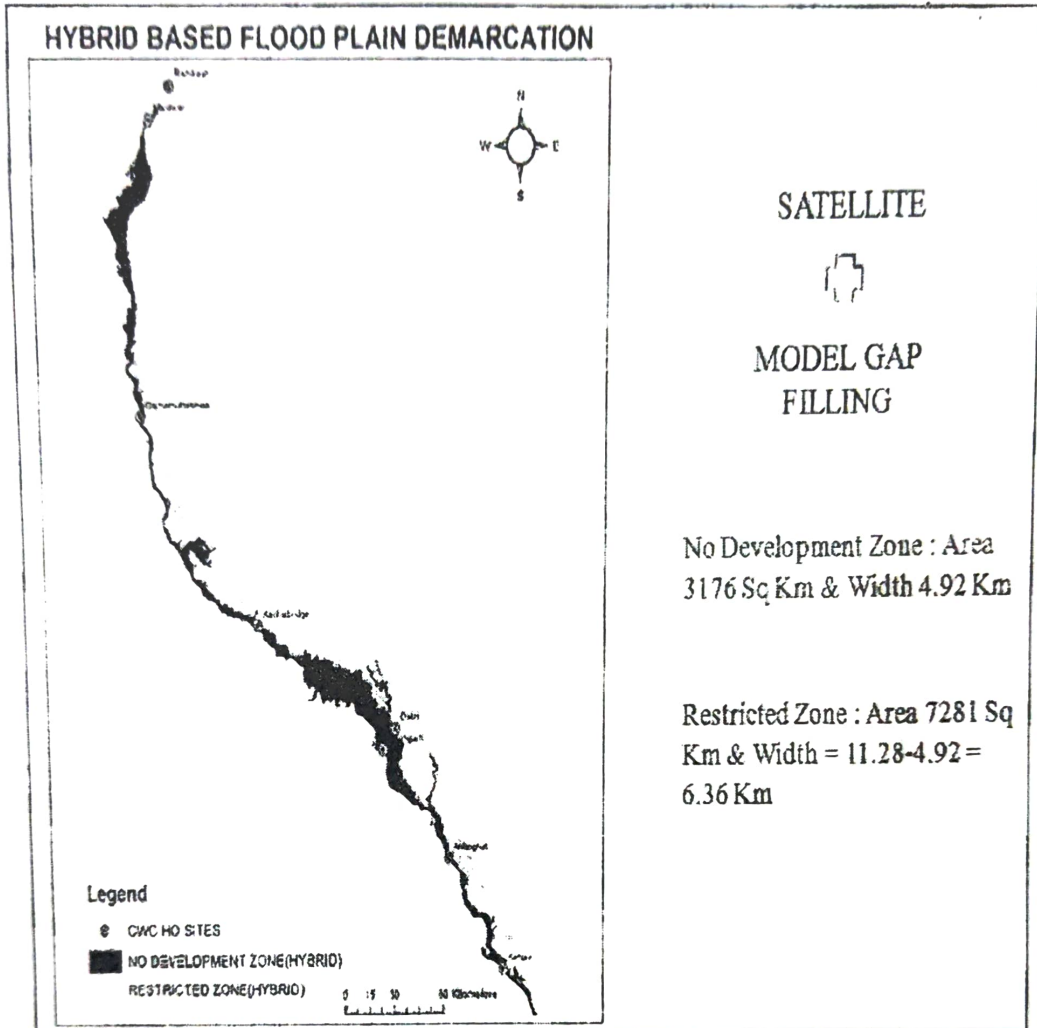


Figure 7: Flood plain Demarcation based on Hybrid Approach

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## 6. FINAL FLOOD PLAIN DEMARCATION

As decided during the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Hybrid based Flood Plain Demarcation combining results of satellite imageries and model with gap filling were shared with I&WRD, Govt. of UP, regional offices of CWC/GFCC for ground truth verification jointly near all important cities/municipalities/major habitations. Subsequently, ground truth verification was carried out by the team consisting of officials from Central Water Commission, Ganga Flood Control Commission, National Institute of Hydrology and State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand in following three segments:

**Segment-I** from 07.05.2019 to 08.05.2019 in reach Haridwar to Bijnore.

**Segment-II** from 15.05.2019 to 16.05.2019 in reach Kannauj to Kanpur/ Unnao.

**Segment-III** from 11.06.2019 in reach Brajghat/Garhmukteshwar to Narora.

During the ground truth verification exercise, the committee members used the Google Earth mobile application platform for overlaying all the results i.e. Satellite, Model and Hybrid in KML format so that they could compare the result location on mobile application with the actual ground location and marks the difference. Besides this, during the visits, the information available from local residents was also gathered to verify the results.

No development zone demarcated using satellite data was found to be more or less confirming to the ground reality. The same has been selected and finalized further by incorporating the details of embankments, bunds collected from U.P. Govt.

The final average satellite based No Development Zone width i.e. 3.15 Km has been arrived through refining the previous No Development zone by incorporating the findings of ground truth verification report such as gap-filling, correcting the bank lines, smoothening the outer edges, and extending the No Development zones upto the embankment line where ever applicable. This resulted in increase of area of No Development Zone from 1483 Sq.Km. to 2032 Sq. Km., consequently, increasing the average width from 2.3 Km to 3.15 Km.

Similarly, the satellite based average Regulatory Zone width i.e. 10.12 Km has been arrived through refining the previous Restricted Zone by taking the union of satellite area provided by NRSC and the newly defined No Development Zone and smoothening the outer edges. This has again resulted in increase of area from 5643 Sq.Km. to 6530 Sq.Km., consequently, increasing the average width from 8.8 Km to 10.12 Km.

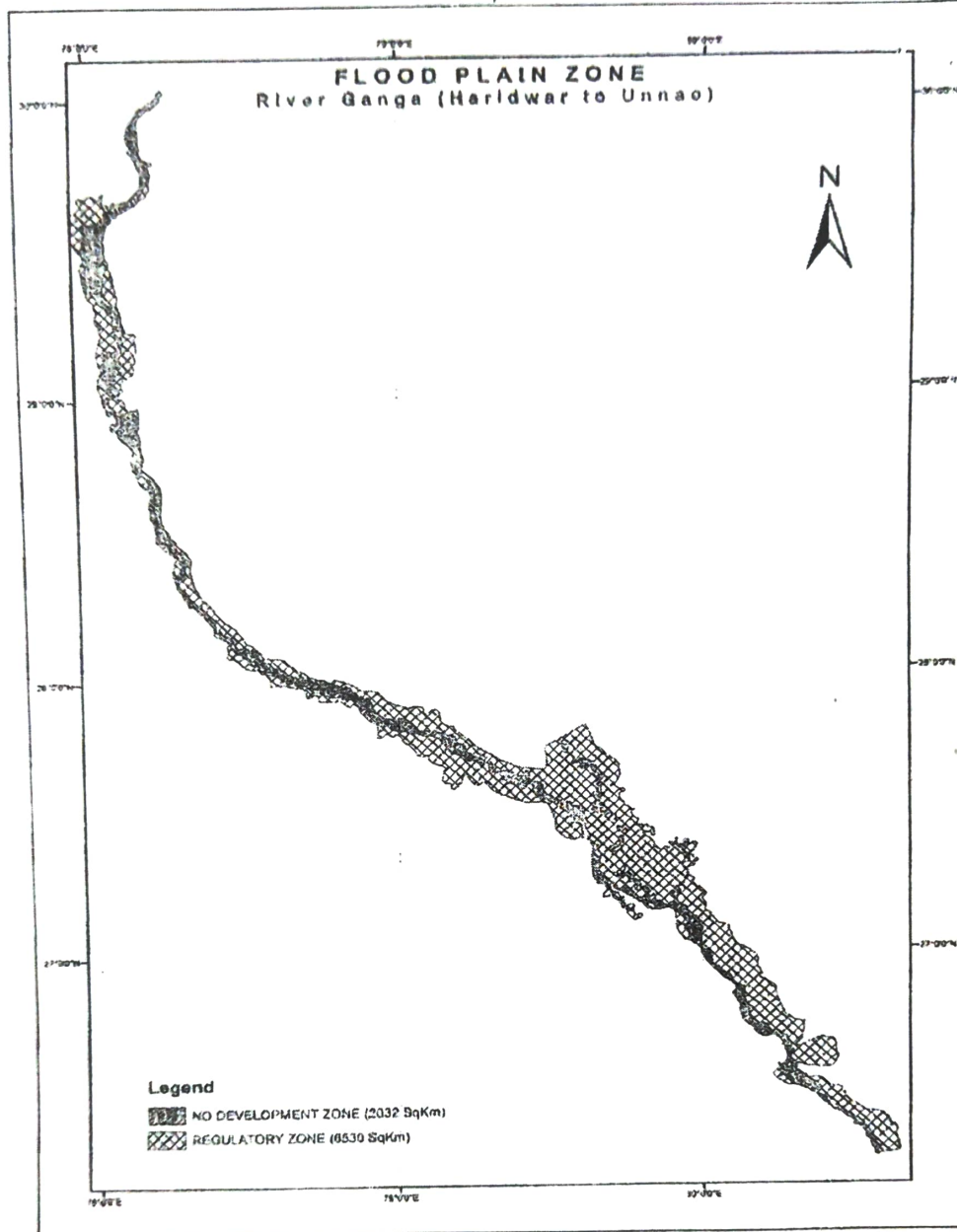


Figure 8: Final Flood Plain based on Ground Truth Verification

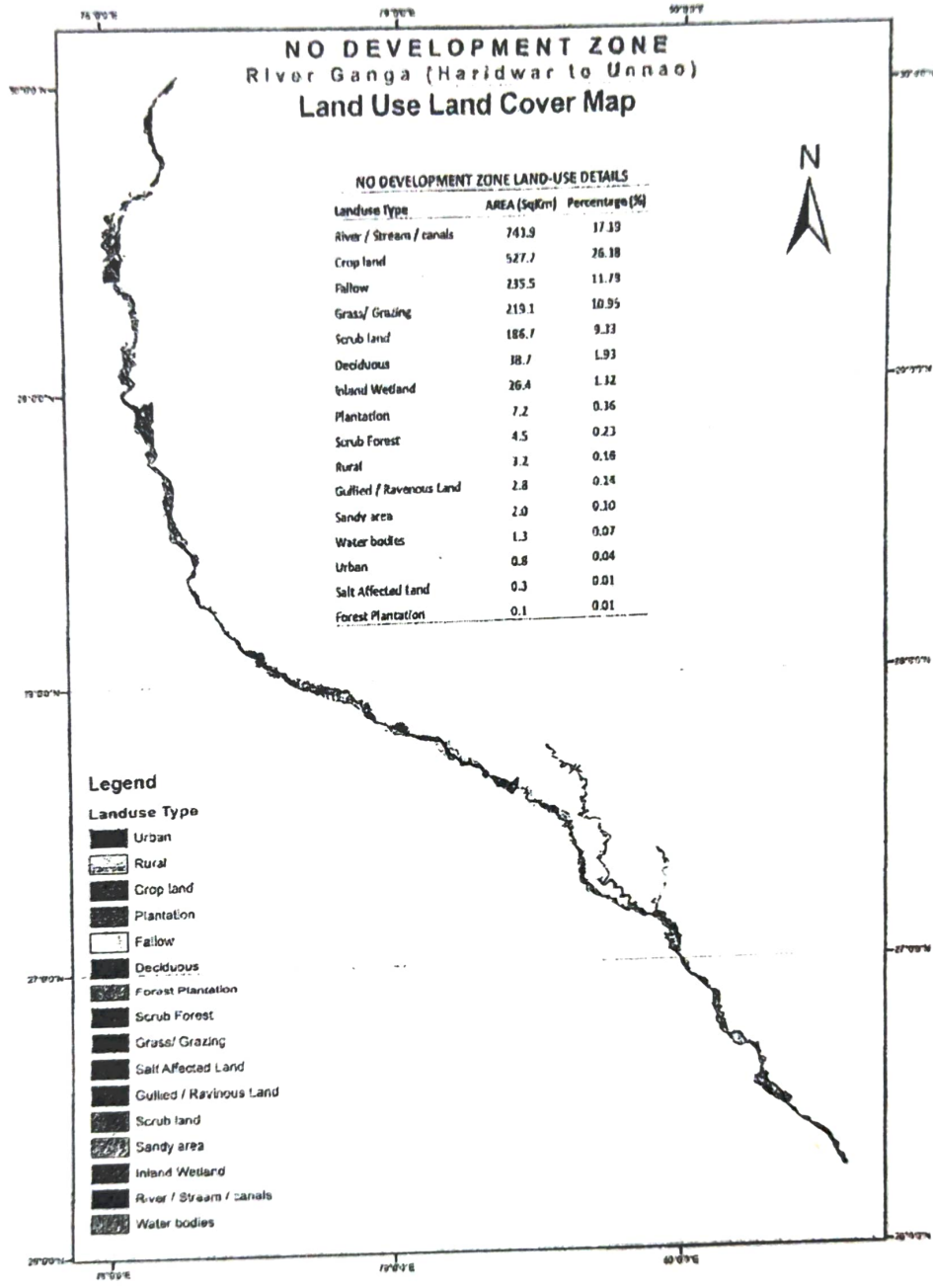


Figure 9: Land Use Land Cover Map for No Development Zone

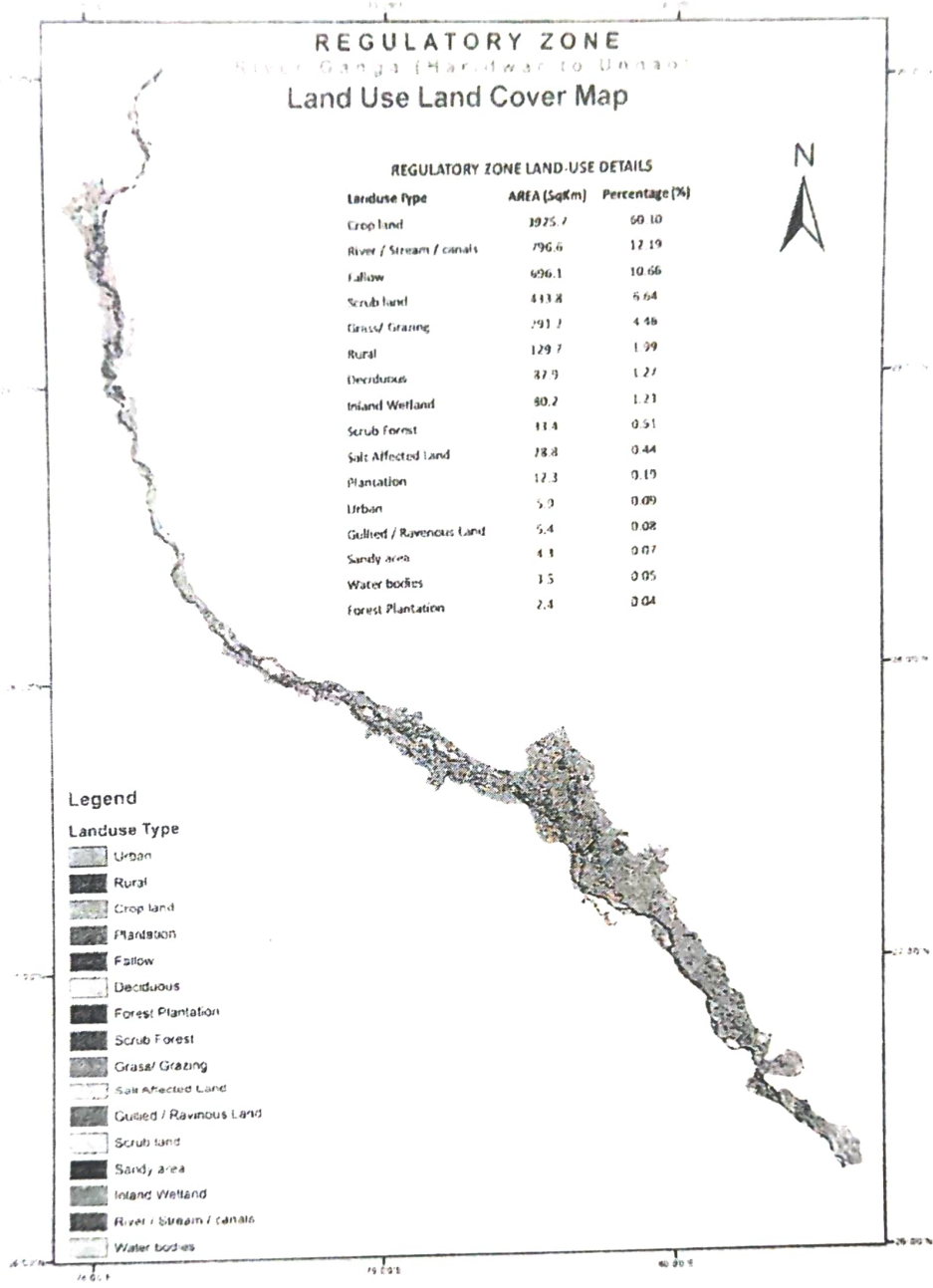


Figure 10: Land Use Land Cover Map for Regulatory Map

## 7. ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

### *For Satellite*

- Flood extent covered by satellite depends upon revisit period, cloud cover, river turbidity, river seasonality etc. & classification algorithms used by space agency.
- Image processing algorithms, etc.
- Embankment breach scenarios are not accounted
- Cannot segregate riverine flooding from other types of flooding

### *For Model*

- Mannings value of 0.04 was adopted uniform throughout the flood plains as well as river channel.
- Limitations of topography i.e. 90m SRTM DEM
- River bathymetry accounted using available cross sections only.
- Effects of flood embankments, roads, buildings, hydraulic structures, bridge etc were not considered.
- Scenarios like Dambreak and GLOF are not considered
- Morphological changes not considered
- Flooding due to drainage congestion, water clogging etc not accounted.
- Study area is confined to Maximum 30 km buffer on either side of river centerline
- Evaporation, infiltration and diversion losses neglected

### *For Ground Truth Verification*

- Restricted zone could not be verified
- Subject to the accuracy of geo-location services available on mobile
- Only accessible and habituated areas were surveyed

## 8. ACTIVITIES IN FLOOD PLAIN ZONE

The following literatures were considered for defining activities that can be/cannot be carried out in the No development / Restricted zones of the floodplain.

1. Concept paper on river Conservation Zone prepared by the expert group of Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change
2. National Disaster Management Authority guidelines for flood management
3. Flood Plain Zoning notification of Uttarakhand Irrigation Department.
4. NMCG guidelines for Ganga Basin

The above literatures were discussed by the committee during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 in firming up the activities that can be/cannot be carried out in the No development / Regulatory zones of the floodplain. Finally following activities were identified and recommended by the committee.

#### 8.1 NO DEVELOPMENT ZONE

##### **Prohibited activities in No Development Zone:**

All activities except mentioned under the regulated activities in no-development zone.

##### **Regulated Activities in No Development Zone:**

- i. Temporary constructions, if absolutely necessary, in exceptional circumstances like natural calamities or religious events at traditional locations, with prior permission of the National Mission for Clean Ganga acting through the State Ganga Committee and the District Ganga Committee.
- ii. Regulated Sand/ Stone/ sediment/ river borne material mining may be allowed as per MoEF&CC guidelines
- iii. Repair/renovation of protected monuments, temples, boating jetties, parks, ghats and crematorium
- iv. Existing structure, whether permanent or temporary for residential or commercial or industrial or any other purposes in the River Ganga, Bank of River Ganga or in active flood plain area of River Ganga or its tributaries provided that such construction has already been completed, shall be reviewed by the National Mission for Clean Ganga so as to examine as to whether such constructions are causing interruption in the continuous flow of water or pollution in River Ganga as per provisions under para [6(3)] of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation notification no. S.O. 3187(E), dated the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (as amended from time to time) (copy enclosed) regarding constitution of an authority, namely, the National Mission for Clean Ganga for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga.
- v. Organic farming by owners/lease holders
- vi. Plantation of native trees / shrubs (for commercial use)
- vii. Measures for control of erosion and floods, maintenance or de-silting of river ways, waterways and channels
- viii. Repair of breaches in embankments
- ix. Laying of unpaved paths for access to the river for cultural, religious or any other purposes

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- x. Various activities such as engineered diversion and storage of water in River Ganga, construction of bridges and associated roads and embankments over the River Ganga or at its River Bank or its flood plain area, construction of Ghats or extension of any existing Ghat, construction of jetties, construction of permanent hydraulic structures for storage or diversion or control of waters or channelization of River Ganga, etc., shall be governed as mentioned under para (42) of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation notification no. S.O. 3187(E), dated the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (as amended from time to time) regarding constitution of an authority, namely, the National Mission for Clean Ganga for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga
- xi. Navigation, Water Sports, Water Transport related activities.

## 8.2 REGULATORY ZONE

### Prohibited Activities in Regulatory Zone:

Red category of industries as mentioned in CPCB guidelines (as amended from time to time)

### Regulated Activities in Regulatory Zone:

- i. Construction of residential/ Institutional/ commercial buildings, school, dispensaries, recreational facilities with certain stipulations as mentioned in NDMA guidelines (as amended from time to time) such as prohibition of basement in buildings, construction on stilts (columns), plinth level above the flood lines, provision of stairway in single storey building, roof level of single storey or first floor level above 100 years flood level/HFL, preferably utilizing ground floor for non-residential purposes.
- ii. Various activities such as engineered diversion and storage of water in River Ganga, construction of bridges and associated roads and embankments over the River Ganga or at its River Bank or its flood plain area, construction of Ghats or extension of any existing Ghat, construction of jetties, construction of permanent hydraulic structures for storage or diversion or control of waters or channelization of River Ganga, etc., shall be governed as mentioned under para (42) of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation notification no. S.O. 3187(E), dated the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2016 (as amended from time to time) regarding constitution of an authority, namely, the National Mission for Clean Ganga for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga
- iii. Setting up of non-polluting cottage industries.
- iv. Construction / expansion/ modernization of bridges, roads and similar facilities that may affect ND Zone
- v. Creation of navigational facilities involving dredging, mechanised ferries, jetties etc.
- vi. Green and Orange category of industries as mentioned in CPCB guidelines (as amended from time to time)
- vii. Water Sports, Water Transport related activities
- viii. Stone crushing plants etc.

## 9. Concluding Remarks

1. As per the recommendations of the report of ground truth verification (Annexure-6), Satellite based No Development Zone was found to be more or less confirming to the ground reality which was found to be most frequent with respect to recurrence interval of 5 years. The same has been selected and finalized further by incorporating the details of embankments, bunds collected from U.P. Govt.
2. The outer extent of Satellite images for two flood events dated on 18-19 June 2013 and 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010 provided by NRSC has been considered as Regulatory / Restricted Zone which was confirming to the 25 years return period flood.
3. The lat/long of demarcating pillars for both left and right side of No Development zone at interval of 200 m is provided in Annexure-7.
4. The lat/long of demarcating pillars for both left and right side of restricted zone at interval of 200 m is provided in Annexure-8.
5. Total flood plain area for No Development Zone is 2032 sq. KM corresponding to the average width of 3.15 KM.
6. Total flood plain area for Restricted/ Regulatory Zone is 6530 sq. KM corresponding to the average width of 10.12 KM.
7. For monitoring of flood line area a monitoring committee comprising members of GFCC, NIH, UP Govt and Field units of CWC is recommended.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANNEXURE 2

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To,

27.09.24

**The Public Information Officer (PIO),  
State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG)-UP,  
Lucknow**

**Subject: Provide information under Right to Information Act, 2005**

**Respected Sir/Madam,**

Under the provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005, I request the following information related to Budhi Ganga, a tributary of the Ganga River:

1. Please provide detailed flood plain mapping reports, maps, and associated documents for Budhi Ganga in District Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur.
2. Provide details of areas notified as "No Construction Zones" and "Construction Zones" along the Ganga and its tributaries, specifically for Budhi Ganga.
3. Kindly include any guidelines, circulars, or notifications related to Budhi Ganga's flood plains in District Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur..
4. Has the SMCGUP or any other agency conducted inspections or surveys for flood plain demarcation or encroachments along Budhi Ganga in District Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur. If yes, please provide details of these inspections, including dates, findings, and recommendations.
5. Is there any specific plan or ongoing activity to identify and remove encroachments along Budhi Ganga's flood plains in district Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur.
6. Provide documents related to any notices, actions, or demolitions carried out against illegal constructions on Budhi Ganga's flood plains.
7. Kindly provide the guidelines and framework applicable for flood plain management, no construction zones, and conservation for tributaries of the Ganga, including Budhi Ganga.

Kindly provide the requested information as per the RTI Act, 2005. If the information sought falls under the purview of another department or authority,

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Priyank Bharati**

21/07/25

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प्रेषक-

अधिशारी अभियंता  
ड्रेनेज खण्ड-प्रथम, मेरठ।

प्रेषित-

मा0 राज्य सूचना आयोग  
विभूतिखण्ड, गोमतीनगर, उ0प्र0 लखनऊ।

पत्रांक-

/ डीडीएम/ सूचना अधिनियम-2005/

दिनांक-

/2025

विषय-

मा0 राज्य सूचना आयोग में योजित अपील सं0-एस-11/ए/1465/2024 (पंजीकरण संख्या-ए-20241200508) के संबंध में।

संदर्भ-

कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता (गंगा) सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उ0प्र0, मेरठ का पत्रांक-7676/मुअगंगा/मा0रासूआ/ अपील/दिनांक-28.07.2025

महोदय,

कृपया उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र का अवलोकन करने का कष्ट करें, जिसके माध्यम से प्राप्त कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियंता, (प्रशासनिक सुधार प्रकोष्ठ) सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उ0प्र0, लखनऊ के पत्र संख्या-555/प्र0सु0प्र0/श्री प्रियांक भारती/लखनऊ/दिनांक-24.07.2025 के साथ संलग्न कार्यालय राज्य स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन-उत्तर प्रदेश नमामि गंगे तथा ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति विभाग, उ0प्र0 के पत्र संख्या-141/187-सी/SMCG-UP/04/दिनांक-09.07.2025 का पत्र दिनांक-02.08.2025 को इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है। जिसमें संलग्न पत्र कार्यालय राज्य स्वच्छ गंगा मिशन-उत्तर प्रदेश नमामि गंगे तथा ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति विभाग ने आवेदक श्री प्रियंक भारती, [REDACTED], मेरठ-250004 के द्वारा बिन्दु संख्या-01 से 07 तक मांगी गई सूचना का संबंध सिंचाई विभाग से होना बताया है।

इस संबंध में अवगत कराना है उक्त प्रकरण पूर्व में ही कार्यालय अधिशारी अभियंता अनूपशहर शाखा खण्ड गंगा नहर, मेरठ का पत्रांक-1920/अशाख/जनसूचना/दिनांक-03.07.2025 के साथ संलग्न कार्यालय प्रभागीय वनाधिकारी हापुड़ वन प्रभाग, हापुड़ के पत्र संख्या-13/29-1/हापुड़/दिनांक-02.07.2025 द्वारा दिनांक-09.07.2025 को प्राप्त हुआ था। जिसके क्रम में इस खण्ड के पत्र संख्या-1242/डीडीएम/सूचना अधिनियम-2005/दिनांक-21.07.2025 द्वारा खण्ड से संबंधित बिन्दुओं पर आवेदक श्री प्रियंक भारती, [REDACTED] को सूचना उपलब्ध करा दी गई थी, जिसकी छायाप्रति साथ में संलग्न है।

अधिशारी अभियंता  
ड्रेनेज खण्ड-प्रथम, मेरठ

पत्रांक- 1322 / डीडीएम/ सूचना अधिनियम-2005/ तदिनांक- 4/8/25  
प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित है-

1. कार्यालय मुख्य अभियंता (गंगा) सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उ0प्र0, मेरठ को उनके संदर्भित पत्र के क्रम में सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।
2. अधीक्षण अभियंता, गंगा नहर संचालन मण्डल, मेरठ।
3. श्री प्रियंक भारती, [REDACTED], मेरठ-250004 को उक्त के संदर्भ में सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।

अधिशारी अभियंता  
ड्रेनेज खण्ड-प्रथम, मेरठ

अधिशाली अभियंता  
ड्रेनेज खण्ड-प्रथम, मेरठ।

प्रेषित

प्रभागीय उनाधिकारी हापुर  
वन प्रभाग, हापुर।

पत्रांक-

1242/डीडीएम/सूचना अधिनियम-2005/

विषय-

अपील संख्या-एस/ए/1465/2024 (पंजीकरण संख्या-ए-20241200508) श्री प्रियंक बनाम जन सूचना अधिकारी, नगामि  
गंगे तथा ग्रामीण जलापूर्ति अनुभाग-1 के संबंध में;

संदर्भ-

कार्यालय अधिशाली अभियंता अनूपशहर शाखा खण्ड गंगा नहर, मेरठ का पत्रांक-1920/अशाख/जनसूचना/दिनांक-  
03.07.2025

महोदय,

कृपया उपरोक्त विषयक संदर्भित पत्र का अवलोकन करने का कष्ट करें जोकि इस कार्यालय में कार्यालय अधिशाली अभियंता  
अनूपशहर शाखा खण्ड गंगा नहर, मेरठ का पत्रांक-1920/अशाख/जनसूचना/दिनांक-03.07.2025 के द्वारा दिनांक-09.07.2025  
को प्राप्त हुआ है। जिसमें श्री प्रियंक भारती, ~~मेरठ-250004~~ मेरठ-250004 द्वारा सूचना के अधिकार अधिनियम 2005 के  
अंतर्गत सूचना मांगी गई है तथा कार्यालय अधिशाली अभियंता अनूपशहर शाखा खण्ड गंगा नहर, मेरठ द्वारा आपको सूचना उपलब्ध  
कराने हेतु अवगत कराया गया है।

जिसके क्रम में इस खण्ड की सूचना बिन्दुवार निम्न प्रकार है-

क्र. सं.	बिन्दु	आख्या
1	Please provide detailed flood plain mapping reports, maps and associated documents for Budhi Ganga in District Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur.	बूढी गंगा की फ्लड प्लेन मैपिंग रिपोर्ट, मैप तथा संबंधित दस्तावेज साथ में संलग्न हैं।
2	Provide details of areas notified as "No construction zones" and "Construction zones" along the Ganga and its tributaries, specifically for Budhi Ganga.	फ्लड प्लेन जॉन निर्धारण 100 वर्ष बाद के डेटा के अनुरूप होगा, जिसके लिए No construction zone and construction zone निर्धारण का कार्य उपरोक्त सिंचाई विभाग के कार्यक्षेत्र के अंतर्गत नहीं आता है।
3	Kindly include any guidelines, circulars, or notifications related to Budhi Ganga's flood plains in District Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur.	एन0आई0एच0 द्वारा उपलब्ध कराया जाना संभव है।
4	Has the SMCGUP or any other agency conducted inspections or surveys for flood plain demarcation or encroachments along Budhi Ganga in District Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur. If yes, please provide details of these inspections, including dates, findings, and recommendations.	मुजफ्फरनगर, मेरठ, हापुर जिले में बूढी गंगा का Flood plane demarcation का कार्य आरम्भ किया जायेगा, कार्य पूर्ण होने के उपरान्त ही डेटा उपलब्ध कराया जा सकता है।
5	Is there any specific plan or ongoing activity to identify and remove encroachments along Budhi Ganga's Flood plains in district Muzaffarnagar, Meerut and Hapur.	यह बिन्दु सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग उपरोक्त से संबंधित नहीं है।
6	Provide documents related to any notices, actions, or demolitions carried out against illegal constructions on Budhi Ganga's flood plains.	यह बिन्दु सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग उपरोक्त से संबंधित नहीं है।
7	Kindly provide the guidelines and framework applicable for flood plain management, no construction zones, and conservation for tributaries of the Ganga, including Budhi Ganga.	यह बिन्दु सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग उपरोक्त से संबंधित नहीं है।

संलग्न - उपरोक्तानुसार

अधिशाली अभियंता


ड्रेनेज खण्ड-प्रथम, मेरठ

पत्रांक- 1242/डीडीएम/सूचना अधिनियम-2005/तदिनांक-  
प्रतिलिपि निम्नलिखित को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित है-

1. जिलाधिकारी महोदय, हापुर।
2. मुख्य विकास अधिकारी महोदय, हापुर।
3. कार्यालय अधिशाली अभियंता अनूपशहर शाखा खण्ड गंगा नहर, मेरठ को उनके संदर्भित पत्र के क्रम में सूचनार्थ प्रेषित।
4. श्री प्रियंक भारती, ~~मेरठ-250004~~ मेरठ-250004।

अधिशाली अभियंता

ड्रेनेज खण्ड-प्रथम, मेरठ

Rec.   
21/7/25

Annexure-3

Priyank Bharati &lt;naturalsciencetrustmrt@gmail.com&gt;

**Urgent Complaint Regarding Illegal Encroachment in Budhi Ganga Floodplain — No Action Despite Repeated Representations and Ongoing NGT Proceedings (O.A. No. 511/2023)**

1 message

Fri, Apr 24, 2026 at 9:23 PM

Priyank Bharati <naturalsciencetrustmrt@gmail.com>  
To: dmme@nic.in, dfomeerut@gmail.com, namamigange.meerut@gmail.com  
Cc: csup@nic.in, borlko@nic.in, dg@nmcg.nic.in

**24.April.2026**

To,

**The District Magistrate / Chairman  
District Ganga Committee  
Meerut, Uttar Pradesh**

**Subject: Urgent Complaint Regarding Illegal Encroachment in Budhi Ganga Floodplain — No Action Despite Repeated Representations and Ongoing Hon'ble NGT Proceedings (O.A. No. 511/2023)**

**Respected Sir,**

I, the undersigned, most respectfully submit this representation for your kind and urgent consideration regarding the continued encroachment, illegal developmental activities, and unauthorized land transactions within the riverbed and floodplain of River Budhi Ganga a tributary of River Ganga, which are being carried out in blatant disregard of environmental norms and during the pendency of proceedings before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, in Original Application No. 511 of 2023.

**1. That** it is a settled principle of environmental jurisprudence, as upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble NGT, that **floodplains and riverbeds are to be protected from any form of encroachment or alteration**, in view of the **Public Trust Doctrine, Precautionary Principle, and Sustainable Development Principle**.

**2. That**, in accordance with the provisions of **Rule 55 of the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016**, particularly with respect to river floodplains, it is the statutory duty of the **District Ganga Committee (DGC)** to ensure strict protection of riverine zones and to prevent any activity that may adversely impact the ecological integrity and environmental sustainability of such areas; however, in the case of **River Budhi Ganga, a tributary of River Ganga, the District Ganga Committee has demonstrably failed to discharge its statutory obligations, having been unable to prevent ongoing encroachments and other prohibited activities as envisaged under the said provision**.

**3. That** despite the ongoing floodplain demarcation process being undertaken by the Irrigation Department, it has been observed with grave concern that:

- a. Encroachments upon the riverbed and floodplain area of Budhi Ganga, particularly in the Hastinapur and other areas, are continuing unabated, even during the pendency of demarcation proceedings.
- b. Illegal sale, purchase, mutation, and registration of land parcels falling within the historically recorded river course and floodplain (including records traceable to Phasli Year 1359) are being permitted, thereby creating third-party rights and complicating the demarcation process.
- c. Unauthorized constructions, boundary wall erections, land filling, and leveling activities are actively being carried out, resulting in alteration of the natural hydrology and degradation of the river ecosystem.
- d. Such activities are in direct contravention of established environmental safeguards and violate the principle of **status quo**, which is required to be maintained when a matter is sub judice before the Hon'ble NGT.

4. **That** the continuation of such activities during the pendency of O.A. No. 511 of 2023 not only undermines the authority and sanctity of judicial proceedings before the Hon'ble Tribunal but also poses serious risks, including:

- Irreversible ecological damage to the river system,
- Creation of complex legal disputes due to third-party interests.

5. This also constitutes a violation of the judgment of **the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Hinch Lal Tiwari v. Kamala Devi (2001) 6 SCC 496, Jagpal Singh and others vs. State of Punjab and others (2011) 11 SCC 396**

**In view of the foregoing, it is most respectfully prayed that your good office may be pleased to:**

1. **Issue immediate directions** to halt all forms of encroachment, construction, land filling, and any alteration of land within the riverbed and floodplain of Budhi Ganga until the demarcation process and proceedings before the Hon'ble NGT are finally concluded.
2. **Impose an immediate temporary prohibition** on sale, purchase, registration, and mutation of land falling within or adjoining the river course and floodplain of Budhi Ganga, to prevent creation of third-party rights.
3. **Direct the concerned authorities**, including the Revenue Department (SDM, Mawana) and Irrigation Department, to ensure strict enforcement on the ground and to maintain complete status quo in the identified and potential floodplain areas.
4. **Initiate necessary legal action** against violators involved in encroachment and illegal land transactions in accordance with applicable environmental and revenue laws.

**It is submitted that** timely intervention at this stage is essential to uphold the rule of law, protect the fragile river ecosystem, prevent future flood disasters, and ensure compliance with the spirit and directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

I, therefore, humbly request that this representation be considered on priority and necessary directions be issued at the earliest.

**Yours faithfully,**

**Priyank Bharati**

**Copy to:**

- 1. Chief Secretary, UP**
- 2. DG, NMCG, New Delhi**
- 3. Chairman, Board of Revenue, Lucknow**

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**2 attachments**

 **Letter dated 24 April 2026.pdf**  
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 **Letter dated 24 April 2026.pdf**  
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# ANNEXURE 4











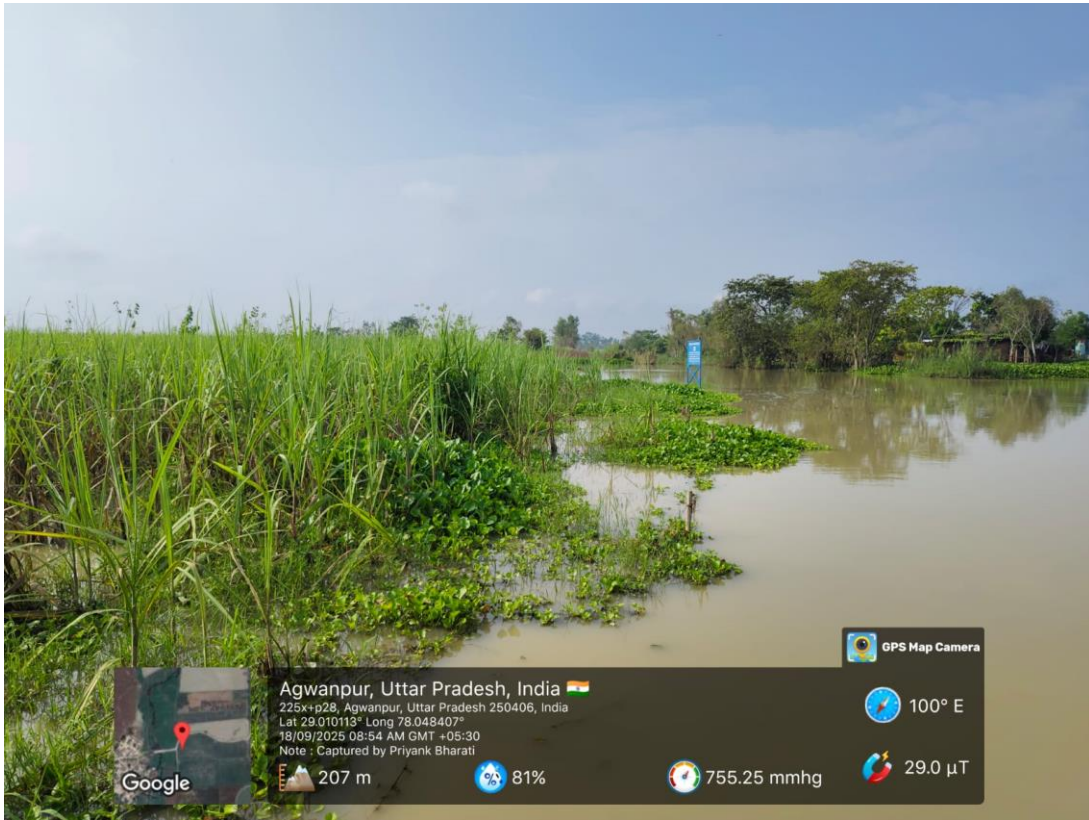






# ANNEXURE 5





*Priyank Bharati*

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