

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 190 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

**NEWS ITEM TITLED “161 ILLEGAL COLONIES ON O’ ZONE
MAKING RIVER WATER TOXIC” APPEARING IN THE TIMES OF
INDIA DATED 25.01.2024**

VERSUS

DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEERESPONDENTS

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Filed by:-



(VIKRANT PACHNANDA)

Advocate for MoEF&CC

(Respondent no.9)

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Dated: 01.07.2026

Place- New Delhi

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**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE, RESPONDENT
NO. 9**

I, V. Pazhaniyandi, S/o Shri Velayudhan Pillai, aged about 46 years, working as Director in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India having its office at Jorbagh, New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am duly authorized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereby referred as Respondent No. 9) to swear this affidavit and I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and am thereby competent to depose as under:



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2. That the present Original Application has been registered suo motu by this Hon'ble Tribunal on the basis of a news item titled "*161 Illegal Colonies on O' Zone Making River Water Toxic*" published in *The Times of India* on 25.01.2024. The news report alleges that 161 colonies situated in the O-Zone of the Yamuna floodplain are not connected to any sewage network and continue to discharge untreated sewage into River Yamuna, thereby causing contamination of river water.
3. That the answering Respondent is engaged in, inter alia, policy formulation for abatement, prevention and control of pollution by prescribing environmental standards which are implemented through the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).

Besides, the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees concerned are mandated and empowered to take all such measures as are deemed necessary or expedient for the purpose of protection and improving the quality of environment as well as prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.

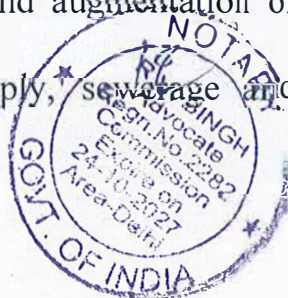


4. That it is respectfully submitted that vide Notification No. S.O. 1986(E) dated 31.07.2014, the subject matter relating to River Ganga and its tributaries, including River Yamuna, was transferred from the Ministry of

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Environment, Forest and Climate Change to the then Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, now known as the Ministry of Jal Shakti. A copy of the said notification is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-I**.

5. That pursuant to the aforesaid notification, matters relating to conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of River Ganga and its tributaries, including River Yamuna, are being dealt with by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), functioning under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, is the nodal agency entrusted with undertaking, coordinating and supervising projects and activities for conservation, protection and abatement of pollution in River Ganga and its tributaries.
6. That it is further submitted that water supply, sewerage and sanitation are primarily matters within the domain of the State Governments. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) supplements the efforts of the States and Union Territories through policy guidance, advisories and schematic interventions. MoHUA also provides technical and financial assistance under various Missions and Schemes, including the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and AMRUT 2.0, for creation and augmentation of urban infrastructure in sectors such as water supply, sewerage and septage management,



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rejuvenation of water bodies, parks and green spaces, among others. Under AMRUT 2.0, the States and Union Territories are empowered to identify, appraise, prioritize, sanction and implement projects in accordance with their local requirements and priorities.

7. That it is respectfully submitted that the responsibility for planning, development, operation and maintenance of water supply systems, sewerage networks, sewage collection systems, sewage treatment facilities and sanitation infrastructure primarily vests with the respective State Governments, Urban Local Bodies and other competent authorities under the applicable statutory and administrative framework. Issues relating to discharge of untreated sewage, management of municipal solid waste and other sources of river pollution are therefore required to be addressed by the concerned State authorities and local bodies in discharge of their statutory functions and responsibilities.
8. That it is further submitted that, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, the responsibility for planning, establishment, operation and maintenance of sewerage networks, sewage collection systems, sewage treatment infrastructure and disposal mechanisms primarily vests with the concerned authorities, including the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Municipal Authorities, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Government of NCT of Delhi and other concerned agencies.



9. That in view of the foregoing submissions, the issues raised in the present proceedings appear to fall substantially within the jurisdiction and functional domain of the authorities responsible for urban planning, sewerage infrastructure, sewage treatment, sanitation management and river pollution abatement in the concerned area.
10. That the answering respondent craves leaves to file additional documents or information, if necessary, *Pendente lite*.
11. That in view of the facts and circumstances stated hereinabove, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass such further order (s) as it may deem fit and proper in the interest of justice.



VERIFICATION:

Verified at New Delhi on the **25 JUN 2026** of June, 2026 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.

solemnly affirmed before me, the
ver & explained to the deponent

Notary Public, Delhi



(Signature)
DEPONENT
(PAZHANIYANDI. V.)
निदेशक (सी.पी.) / Director (CP)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

(Signature)
DEPONENT
(PAZHANIYANDI. V.)
निदेशक (सी.पी.) / Director (CP)
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

25 JUN 2026

(ii) प्रविष्टि 30 के पश्चात्, निम्नलिखित प्रविष्टियां अंतःस्थापित की जाएंगी, अर्थात्:—

"30क. राष्ट्रीय गंगा नदी बेसिन प्राधिकरण जिसके अंतर्गत मिशन निदेशालय, स्वच्छ गंगा के लिए राष्ट्रीय मिशन और गंगा संरक्षण से संबंधित अन्य मामले भी हैं।

30ख. गंगा नदी और उसकी सहायक नदियों का संरक्षण, विकास, प्रबंधन और प्रदूषण का उपशमन।";

(झ) "युवक कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय" शीर्षक, उसके अधीन उप-शीर्षक और उससे संबंधित प्रविष्टियों का लोप किया जाएगा।"

प्रणब मुखर्जी

राष्ट्रपति

[फा. सं. 1/21/9/2014-मंत्रि.]

संयुक्ता राय, निदेशक

CABINET SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 31st July, 2014

S.O. 1986(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, the President hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Sixth Amendment Rules, 2014.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. In the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961,—

(1) in THE FIRST SCHEDULE,—

(a) for the heading "11. Ministry of Environment and Forests (Paryavaran aur Van Mantralaya)", the following heading shall be substituted, namely:—

"11. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Paryavaran, Van aur Jalvaayu Parivartan Mantralaya)";

(b) after the heading "32. Ministry of Shipping (Pot Parivahan Mantralaya)", the following heading and sub-headings shall be inserted, namely:—

"33. Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports (Kaushal Vikas, Udyamshilta, Yuvak Karyakram aur Khel Mantralaya).

(i) Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Kaushal Vikas aur Udyamshilta Vibhag)

(ii) Department of Youth Affairs (Yuvak Karyakram Vibhag)

(iii) Department of Sports (Khel Vibhag)";

(c) for the heading "41. Ministry of Water Resources (Jal Sansadhan Mantralaya)", the following heading shall be substituted, namely:—

“41. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (Jal Sansadhan, Nadi Vikas aur Ganga Sanrakshan Mantralaya)”;

- (d) the heading “42. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Yuvak Karyakram aur Khel Mantralaya)” and sub-headings thereunder, shall be omitted.

(2) in THE SECOND SCHEDULE,-

- (a) for the heading “MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PARYAVARAN TATHA VAN MANTRALAYA)”, the following heading shall be substituted, namely :—

“MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (PARYAVARAN, VAN AUR JALVAAYU PARIVARTAN MANTRALAYA)” ;

- (b) under the heading “MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (PARYAVARAN, VAN AUR JALVAAYU PARIVARTAN MANTRALAYA)” as so substituted,—

- (i) for the entry 8, the following entries shall be substituted, namely :—

“8. Conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution of rivers excluding the river Ganga and its tributaries.

8A. National River Conservation Directorate.”;

- (ii) after the entry 36, the following entry shall be inserted, namely :—

“36A. Climate change and all other matters related thereto.”;

- (c) under the heading “MINISTRY OF FINANCE (VITTA MANTRALAYA)”, under the sub-heading “A. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (ARTHIK KARYA VIBHAG)”, entries 81A and 81B shall be omitted.;

- (d) under the heading “MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (POT PARIVAHAN MANTRALAYA)”, after the entry 5, the following entry shall be inserted, namely :—

“5A. Ship breaking.”;

- (e) after the heading “MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (POT PARIVAHAN MANTRALAYA)”, and entries relating thereto, the following heading and sub-headings and entries shall be inserted, namely:—

“MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (KAUSHAL VIKAS, UDYAMSHILTA, YUVAK KARYAKRAM AUR KHEL MANTRALAYA)

A. DEPARTMENT OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (KAUSHAL VIKAS AUR UDYAMSHILTA VIBHAG)

1. Coordination with all concerned for evolving an appropriate skill development framework, removal of disconnect between the demand for and supply of skilled manpower through vocational and technical training, skill up-gradation, building of new skills, innovative thinking and talents not only for the existing jobs but also the jobs that are to be created.
2. Mapping of existing skills and their certification.
3. Expansion of youth entrepreneurship education and capacity through forging strong partnership between educational institutions, business and other community organisations and set national standards for it.
4. Role of coordination relating to skill development.
5. Doing market research and devising training curriculum in important sectors.

6. Industry-Institute linkage.
7. Bringing Public Private Partnership element in this activity-partnership with the industry who need the skilled manpower.
8. Making broad policies for all other Ministries/Departments with regard to market requirements and skill development.
9. To frame policies for soft skills.
10. Computer Education.
11. Academic equivalence of skill sets.
12. Work relating to Industrial Training Institutes.
13. (i) National Skill Development Corporation.
(ii) National Skill Development Agency.
(iii) National Skill Development Trust.

B. DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS (YUVAK KARYAKRAM VIBHAG)

1. Youth Affairs/Youth Policy.
2. Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan.
3. National Reconstruction Corps Scheme.
4. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development.
5. Scheme for assistance to Rural Youth and Sports Clubs.
6. National Commission for Youth.
7. National Service Scheme.
8. Voluntary Youth Organisations including financial assistance to them.
9. National Service Volunteer Scheme.
10. Commonwealth Youth Programme and United Nations Volunteers.
11. Youth welfare activities, youth festivals, work camp, etc.
12. Boy-scouts and girl-guides.
13. Youth Hostels.
14. National Youth Awards.
15. Residual work of the erstwhile National Discipline Scheme.
16. Exchange of Youth Delegation with foreign countries.

C. DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS (KHEL VIBHAG)

1. Sports Policy.
2. Sports and Games.
3. National Welfare Fund for Sportsmen.
4. Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports.
5. Sports Authority of India.
6. Matters relating to the Indian Olympic Association and National Sports Federations.
7. Participation of Indian sports teams in tournaments abroad and participation of foreign sports teams in international tournaments in India.
8. National Sports Awards including Arjuna Awards.

9. Sports Scholarships.
 10. Exchange of Sports persons, experts and teams with foreign countries.
 11. Sports infrastructure including financial assistance for creation and development of such infrastructure.
 12. Financial assistance for coaching, tournaments, equipment, etc.
 13. Sports matters relating to Union territories.
 14. Physical Education.”;
- (f) under the heading “MINISTRY OF STEEL (ISPAT MANTRALAYA)”, in entry 1, the words “including ship breaking” shall be omitted;
- (g) for the heading “MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (JAL SANSADHAN MANTRALAYA)”, the following heading shall be substituted, namely,-
“MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (JAL SANSADHAN, NADI VIKAS AUR GANGA SANRAKSHAN MANTRALAYA)”;
- (h) under the heading “MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (JAL SANSADHAN, NADI VIKAS AUR GANGA SANRAKSHAN MANTRALAYA)”, as so substituted,-
- (i) in entry 1, after the words “diverse uses of water” the words “and interlinking of rivers”, shall be added;
 - (ii) after the entry 30, the following entries shall be inserted, namely,-
“30A. National Ganga River Basin Authority including the Mission Directorate, National Mission for Clean Ganga and other related matters of Ganga Rejuvenation.
30B. Conservation, development, management and abatement of pollution in river Ganga and its tributaries.”;
- (i) the heading “ MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (YUVAK KARYAKRAM AUR KHEL MANTRALAYA)” and sub-headings thereunder and entries relating thereto shall be omitted.”.

PRANAB MUKHERJEE

President

[F. No. 1/21/9/2014-Cab.]

SANJUKTA RAY, Director