

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

Original Application No. 553 of 2024

In the matter of

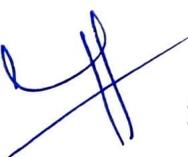
News item titled "From Ropar to Hoshiarpur via HP: 30-km detour as illegal mining damages bridge" appearing in The Indian Express dated 10.04.2024.

Reply of Smt. Preeti Yadav IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Rupnagar.

- 1) That the Original Application has been registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in exercise of suo-moto powers on the basis of the news item appeared in The Indian Express dated 10.04.2024 titled "From Ropar to Hoshiarpur via HP: 30-km detour as illegal mining damages bridge". The matter relates to the closure of a bridge on the Swan-river, connecting Nangal with Garhshankar due to indiscriminate sand mining causing residents to take a detour of 30 km.

That after consideration of the matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal by passing an order dated 20.05.2024 has impleaded the Punjab Pollution Control Board; Central Pollution Control Board; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chandigarh; Deputy Commissioner, Rupnagar as respondents in the case with direction to file their response.

Vide the said order dated 20.05.2024, the Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (respondent no.2) was directed to get the spot inspection done and ascertain the extent of illegal mining in the area concerned and to submit report before the Tribunal.

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- 2) That further it is submitted that in compliance of the order dated 20.05.2024 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, a Joint Committee of the following officers was constituted to conduct site visit and to submit report accordingly.

S. No.	Name of the Officials / Members	Designated
1	Additional Deputy Commissioner (G), Rupnagar	Chairman
2	Superintendent of Police (D), Rupnagar	Member
3	District Revenue Officer, Rupnagar	Member
4	Divisional Forest Officer, Rupnagar	Member
5	District Development and Panchayat Officer, Rupnagar	Member
6	Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining Division, Sri Anandpur Sahib	Member
7	Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Rupnagar	Convener

- 3) That the spot inspection was carried out on 02.07.2024 jointly by the team of Central Pollution Control Board and the Joint Committee constituted by the District Administration, attached as **Annexure-A**.
- 4) Suitable directions to all the stakeholders departments has been passed by the undersigned, attached as **Annexure-B**.
- 5) That accordingly Punjab Pollution Control Board has filed its reply in the Hon'ble Tribunal and same may be considered as reply of the District Administration, Rupnagar.

Submitted by

Date: 27.8.2024

Place: Rupnagar,


(Preeti Yadav, IAS)
Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar

Office of Deputy Commissioner, Rupnagar

(D.R.A Branch)

Office Order :-

As per the directive from the Honorable National Green Tribunal, New Delhi in Original Application No. 553/2024 dated 20-05-2024, a committee is being formed to conduct a site visit. The details of the committee members are as follows:

Sr.no	Name of the Officials/Members	Designated
1	Additional Deputy Commissioner (G), Rupnagar	Chairman
2	Superintendent of Police (D), Rupnagar	Member
3	District Revenue Officer, Rupnagar	Member
4	Divisional Forest Officer, Rupnagar.	Member
5	District Development & Panchayat Officer, Rupnagar	Member
6	Executive Engineer, Drainage-Cum-Mining Division, Sri Anandpur Sahib	Member
7	Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Regional Office Rupnagar	Convener

The Environmental Engineer P.P.C.B. Rupnagar is directed to coordinate with all members mentioned in the letter, including site inspection on 02-07-2024 at 10:30 AM and submit a joint report by 04 -07-2024 at 11:00 AM in any case.

For Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

Endorsement no. 4514-20 A.D.R.A-3

Dated... 25/06/2024

A copy to:-

1. Additional Deputy Commissioner (G), Rupnagar.
2. Superintendent of Police (D), Rupnagar
3. Executive Engineer, Drainage-Cum-Mining Division, Sri Anandpur Sahib.
4. District Revenue Officer, Rupnagar.
5. Divisional Forest Officer, Rupnagar.
6. District Development & Panchayat Officer, Rupnagar.
7. Environmental Engineer, PPCB, Regional Office Rupnagar

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ, ਖੇਤਰੀ ਦਫਤਰ, ਰੁਪਨਗਰ
ਸ:ਵਾਤਾ:ਦਿੱਖ.-1/2/3/ਸੀ.ਸਹਾ./ਜੂਨੀ.ਸਹਾ./ਕਲਰਕ
ਨਵੀਂ ਭਾਗ

BE (charajit)
to visit
pls.

For Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਇੰਜੀਨੀਅਰ
ਡਾਇਰੀ ਨੰ: 1352 ਮਿਤੀ: 28/06/24

OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, RUPNAGAR

To

1. Executive Engineer, Drainage cum Mining Department,
Sri Anandpur Sahib
2. Executive Engineer, Public Work Department, Rupnagar.

No. 6952-53 / Date 23-08-24

Subject: Regarding compliance of the suggestions given by the committee, constituted on 25-06-2024 in the OA 553/2024.

It is intimated that in the subject cited matter, the committee was constituted by the district administration to ascertain the extent of illegal mining in the area causing dislocation of pillar of the bridge on swan-river, connecting Nangal with Gadshankar and submit the joint report. Accordingly the joint committee have submitted the suggestion to prevent the illegal mining in the area and the suggestion are reproduced as under:

"it is suggested that concerned department may refer to "National Framework for Sediment Management, October,2022" published by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, for managing the sediments giving due consideration to environment and ecology."

It is therefore directed to do compliance of above guidelines in letter & spirit and submit the report in this office.

Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

Endst. No. 6954 / Date 23-08-24

A copy of the above is forwarded to Superintending Engineer, Drainage cum Mining Department, Rupnagar for kind information.

Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, RUPNAGAR

To

1. Executive Engineer,
Ropar Canal and Groundwater Division,
Water Resources Department, Punjab,
Rupnagar.
2. Technical Manager, (GW),
PWRDA, Sector 17-C, Chandigarh

No. 6955-56 /

Date 23-08-2024

Subject: Regarding compliance of the suggestions given by the committee, constituted on 25-06-2024 in the OA 553/2024.

It is intimated that in the subject cited matter, the committee was constituted by the district administration to ascertain the extent of illegal mining in the area causing dislocation of pillar of the bridge on swan-river, connecting Nangal with Gadshankar and submit the joint report. Accordingly the joint committee have submitted the suggestion to prevent the illegal mining in the area and the suggestion are reproduced as under:

"it is suggested that the local administration get a study conducted on the hydro-geological regime of the surrounding area. The data obtained in this study may be compared with baseline data to assess the impact on the groundwater level."

It is therefore directed to conduct a study as mentioned in above and submit the report in this office.

Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

Endst. No. 6957 /

Date 23-08-2024

A copy of the above is forwarded to Superintending Engineer, Drainage cum Mining Department, Rupnagar for necessary co-ordination & submission of report.

Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, RUPNAGAR

To

1. Senior Superintendent of Police, Rupnagar,
2. Superintending Engineer, Mining and Geology Department, Rupnagar,
3. District Forest Officer, Rupnagar,
4. Regional Transport Officer, Rupnagar.

No. 6958-61 /

Date 23-08-2024

Subject: Regarding compliance of the suggestions given by the committee, constituted on 25-06-2024 in the OA 553/2024.

It is intimated that in the subject cited matter, the committee was constituted by the district administration to ascertain the extent of illegal mining in the area causing dislocation of pillar of the bridge on swan-river, connecting Nangal with Gadshankar and submit the joint report. Accordingly the joint committee have submitted the suggestion to prevent the illegal mining in the area and the suggestion are reproduced as under:

“Enforcement & Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining (EMGSM), 2020, may be rigorously enforced by the Geology and Mining Department. This includes ensuring that sand and gravel extraction is prohibited within 1 km of major bridges and highways on both sides. All mining sites should be inspected to verify compliance with these guidelines. Additionally, strict monitoring may be conducted by involving the Police, Forest, and Transportation departments. Adequate check posts should be established across the district, the operation hours of quarries and depots should be limited to 7 AM to 6 PM, and the parking of sand-transporting vehicles within quarry or depot sites during night or odd hours may be restricted.”

It is therefore directed to all the above to keep strict vigil in the area, as the suggestion mentioned above and put up monthly report regarding action taken.

Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.

Endst. No.

6962 /

Date 23-08-24

A copy of the above is forwarded to Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Nangal for surprise checking and compliance of the above direction please.

Deputy Commissioner,
Rupnagar.