

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI
O.A. No. 1118 of 2024**


IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in the Hindu dated 19.08.2024

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1.	Reply in compliance to the Hon'ble NGT PB order dated 30.08.2024 in OA No. 1118/2024 titles as news item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditure" appearing in the Hindu dated 19.08.2024.	1-5
2.	Annexure – I A copy of Hon'ble NGT order dated 30.08.2024.	6-7

Date: - 12.12.2024
Place: Delhi


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

O.A. No. 1118 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in the Hindu dated 19.08.2024

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 (CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD)**

1. That, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 30.08.2024 has sought the reply of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act 1974 (hereinafter Water Act), The Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter Air Act) and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. That, the Hon'ble Tribunal passed order dated 30.08.2024 in present OA No. 1118/2024 (News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in the Hindu dated 19.08.2024) . Relevant para of the order is reproduced below:

"5. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

*(1). Central Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary,
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.*



(2). *Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, through its Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110003.*

(3). *National Mission for Clean Ganga, through its Director General, NMCG, I Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi- 110002.*

(4). *Ministry of Jal Shakti, through its Secretary, 6th Floor Cabin, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110001.*

6. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually”

Copy of order dated 30.08.2024 passed by Hon’ble NGT is annexed herewith as **Annexure-1**.

4. That, regarding the averments made in the present application, this respondent submits that the concerned matter primarily pertains to National Mission for Clean Ganga which is the main funding agency in the Namami Gange Programme. Hence, this answering respondent has no comments in this matter.

In view of the supra stated facts and circumstances, it is most respectfully prayed that this Hon’ble Tribunal may be pleased to pass such or further orders as it may deem fit.

5. That, the answering respondent craves leave of the Hon’ble Tribunal to file additional reply, if required, in future.



6. That in the light of the above submissions, it is respectfully submitted that this Answering Respondent No. 1, i.e., CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Court in the instant OA.

Ajit Kumar Vidyarthi

(A.K.Vidyarthi)

Scientist 'F'

Central Pollution Control Board



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

O.A. No. 1118 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in the Hindu dated 19.08.2024

AFFIDAVIT

I, **A.K. Vidyarthi** working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 1 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under :-

1. That I, the deponent herein is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am 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 and authorized to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit as I am competent to swear this affidavit.
3. That the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



Ajit Kumar Vidyarthi

DEPONENT

ए. के. विद्यार्थी / A. K. Vidyarthi
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
M/o Env. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this day of 10 DEC 2024 2024 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis- stated.



Ajit kumar vidyarthi

DEPONENT

ए. के. विद्यार्थी / A. K. Vidyarthi
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
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परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

ATTESTED

[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA

10 DEC 2024

Item No. 07

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 1118/2024

News Item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in The Hindu dated 19.08.2024

Date of hearing: 30.08.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Clean Ganga mission head flags, extremely slow, pace of project expenditures" appearing in The Hindu dated 19.08.2024.

2. The news item relates to the tardiness of river-cleaning projects being executed in various States under the National Clean Ganga Mission. As per the article, a variety of projects have been commissioned since 2015 as a part of the Namami Gange mission, the costliest and the most critical in the development of sewage-management infrastructure. In total, nearly ₹37,550 crore have been sanctioned under various Namami Gange projects but only ₹18,033 crore have been spent as of June 2024. Sewage infrastructure projects alone account for ₹15,039 crores of the latter amount. The article alleges that as observed by the director general of NMCG, the pace of expenditure so far is extremely slow. The news item mentions that Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of projects and the authorities there upon being questioned about the slow pace of expenditure responded that that ₹15.16 crores have been spent on six projects in Jaunpur, Kasganj, Varanasi, Bareilly, Salori and Agra and that Payment amounting to ₹25 crore are still under process.

3. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of environmental norms.

4. The power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of "*Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai vs. Ankita Sinha & Ors.*" reported in 2021 SCC Online SC 897.

5. Hence, we implead the following as respondents in the matter:

- (1). Central Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi- 110032.
- (2). Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, through its Secretary, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan Jorbagh Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
- (3). National Mission for Clean Ganga, through its Director General, NMCG, I Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate, New Delhi- 110002.
- (4). Ministry of Jal Shakti, through its Secretary, 6th Floor Cabin, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110001.

6. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.

7. List on 11.12.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. Afroz Ahamd, EM

August 30, 2024
Original Application No. 1118/2024
dv