

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
Original Application No. 230 of 2025

In the matter of:

News Item Titled "Deadline Looming: MCD met Just 21% of Desilting Target by End of April" appearing in The Times of India dated 05.05.2025"

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2.	Annexure I- A copy of letter dated 11.06.2025 for seeking the status report in the matter.	
3.	Annexure II- A copy of the response received from MCD.	

Srinivas Vishven

**Filed by Advocate Srinivas Vishven
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

Place: Delhi

Dated: 09.09.2025

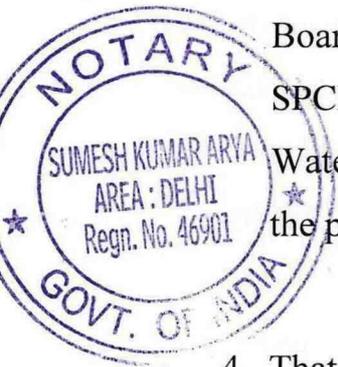
**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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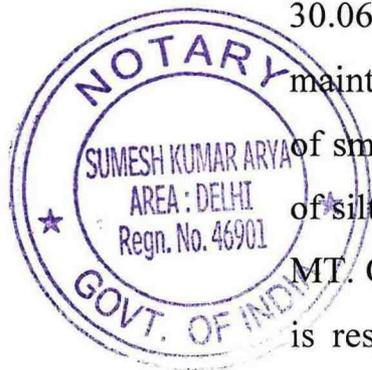
**REPLY ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(CPCB): RESPONDENT NO. 1**

1. That, Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 06.05.2025 passed in the instant matter has sought the reply of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as "CPCB"). 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, it is humbly submitted that the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred as SPCBs/PCCs) have been constituted in States/Union Territories under Water Act, 1974 and Air Act, 1981 to perform the functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of their territorial Jurisdiction.
4. That, the present matter is related to the news report alleging Municipal Corporation of Delhi ("MCD") of falling significantly behind on its drain



desilting work ahead of the monsoon season. As per the news article, by April 25, MCD had completed only 21.3% of its desilting target. As per the article, out of 1.3 lakh metric tonnes of silt that needed to be removed, only about 27,000 metric tonnes had been cleared. The news article also reports that MCD received 16 complaints of waterlogging, and internal lanes in New Friends Colony, Janakpuri, and Azadpur were flooded during recent rains.

5. That, in compliance with Hon'ble NGT's order dated 06.05.2025 passed in the instant matter, the Answering Respondent has taken up the case with Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee ("DPCC") vide letter dated 11.06.2025 and subsequent reminder letters on 18.07.2025 for seeking the status report in the matter. Copies of the letters are enclosed as **Annexure-I**.
6. That, the reply has been received from Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) vide letter dated 28/7/2025. Reply from Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) is awaited.
7. That, it is humbly submitted that Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) vide letter dated 28/7/2025 informed that, in respect of larger drains (more than 4 ft), MCD has removed 1,70,619.89 MT of silt w.e.f. 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025 against the targeted quantity of 1,26,474.27 MT. MCD maintains only 14.26% larger drains in NCT of Delhi. Further, in respect of smaller drains (less than 4 ft), MCD has removed about 38961.59 MT of silt w.e.f. 1/1/2025 to 30/6/2025 against the targeted quantity of 40086 MT. Out of the total drainage length in NCT of Delhi (3722.8 km), MCD is responsible for 530.83 km (14.26%), PWD for 2064 km (55.44%),



NDMC for 335 km (9%), DDA for 251 km (6.74%), I&FC for 402 km (10.80%), and others for 140 km (3.76%). Copy of the response received from MCD is enclosed as **Annexure-II**.

8. That, it is humbly submitted that the subject matter is related to the drain desilting work which comes under the purview of state specific agencies and local bodies such as Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Thereby, it is prayed that the Hon'ble Tribunal may consider the response filed by the concerned agencies for adjudication of the instant matter.
9. That, the answering respondent No. 1 craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.
10. That, in light of the above submission, 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 and render justice.



Nazimuddin

Scientist 'F' & Divisional Head, WQM-I Division
Central Pollution Control Board

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 230/2025**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item Titled "Deadline Looming: MCD met Just 21% of Desilting Target by End of April" appearing in The Times of India dated 05.05.2025"

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nazimuddin** working as Scientist-'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under: -

1. That the deponent 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, competent 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.



Nazimuddin

DEPONENT

नाज़िम उद्दीन / Nazimuddin
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(M/o Environment, Forest And Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

VERIFICATION

09 SEP 2025

Verified at Delhi on this day of _____ 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the record of the cases as mentioned in the day to day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

DEPONENT



ATTESTED

NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI
GOVT. OF INDIA

09 SEP 2025

नाज़िमउद्दीन / Nazimuddin
वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' / Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(M/o Environment, Forest And Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032



27 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

CM-13011/90/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/172

11/6/2025

To

**The Member Secretary
Delhi Pollution Control Committee
6th Floor, C Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, Delhi-110002
(E-mail: msdpcc@nic.in)**

Subject: Direction of Hon'ble NGT order dated 6/5/2025 in O.A. No. 230/2025, regarding.

Sir,

This is reference to Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated 06/05/2025 in O.A. No. 230/2025, Suo Moto matter News Item titled "Deadline Looming: MCD met Just 21% of Desilting Target by End of April" appearing in The Times of India dated 05.05.2025 (copy enclosed). In this matter, Hon'ble NGT has directed three respondents - MCD, DPCC and CPCB to file a response in the form of affidavit before the Tribunal.

In this regard, it is requested to provide the status report on the matter at earliest for CPCB' appropriate reply in OA No. 230/2025.

Yours faithfully

(Nazimuddin)

Divisional Head, WQM-I Division

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

Item No. 26

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 230/2025

News Item titled "Deadline Looming: MCD met Just 21% of Desilting Target by End of April" appearing in The Times of India dated 05.05.2025

Date of hearing: 06.05.2025

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHIR AGARWAL, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER
HON'BLE DR. AFROZ AHMAD, EXPERT MEMBER**

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo motu* on the basis of the news item titled "Deadline Looming: MCD met Just 21% of Desilting Target by End of April" appearing in The Times of India dated 05.05.2025.

2. The news item relates to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) falling significantly behind on its drain desilting work ahead of the monsoon season. As per the news article, by April 25, MCD had completed only 21.3% of its desilting target. As per the article, out of 1.3 lakh metric tonnes of silt that needed to be removed, only about 27,000 metric tonnes had been cleared. According to the news article, the civic body is working in all 12 zones of the capital after engaging machinery and equipment. The article states that there are 800 drains under MCD's jurisdiction, spread over an area of 530 kilometers. As per the article, work is currently ongoing at 253 locations, but none have been fully completed, and many residential areas have seen no cleaning activity at all. According to the article, in Phase I, the civic body targeted the removal of 1,29,392.8 metric tonnes of silt, but by April 25, only 27,589

metric tonnes had been cleared, amounting to just 21.3% of the target. The article further mentions that 12,892 drains in residential areas are less than 4 feet deep, which are cleaned throughout the year. As per the news article, the target for these smaller drains this year was to remove 40,086 metric tonnes of silt, but by the end of April, only 9,474.8 metric tonnes had been cleared, which is about 24% of the target. According to the article, 100% of the desilting work has been completed in the Sadar Paharganj zone, 57% in the Najafgarh zone, and 44.8% in the Keshavpuram zone. The news article also reports that MCD received 16 complaints of waterlogging, and internal lanes in New Friends Colony, Janakpuri, and Azadpur were flooded during recent rains.

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

4. 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 (CPCB), Through its Member Secretary, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032.
- (2). Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Through its Member Secretary, 6th floor, C wing, Delhi Secretariat, I P Estate, Delhi-110002.

(3). Municipal Corporation, Delhi, Through its Commissioner, Dr.
S.P.M. Civic Centre, Minto Rd, SKD Basti, Press Enclave,
Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi, Delhi, 110002.

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 11.09.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

Dr. Afroz Ahmad, EM

May 06, 2025
Original Application No. 230/2025
dv..



Municipal Corporation of Delhi
Office of the Chief Engineer Shahdara (South) Zone
8th Floor, Dr. SPM Civic Centre, JLN Marg,
New Delhi-110002



No. CE/SSZ/2025-26/D-28

Dated: 28/07/2025

The Divisional Head,
WQM-I Division, CPCB,
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar,
Delhi-110032.

Subject: - Direction of Hon'ble NGT order dated 6/5/2025 in O.A. No. 230/2025, regarding.
Ref :- CPCB Letter No. CM-13011/90/2025-LAW-HQ-CPCB-HQ/172 dated 11/6/2025.

With reference to your above said letter on the subject matter, please find enclosed herewith status report of MCD in respect of desilting as Annexure A and Annexure B.

It is to inform that in respect of larger drains (more than 4 ft.), MCD has removed 1,70,619.89 MT of silt w.e.f. 1.1.2025 to 30.6.2025 against the targeted quantity of 1,26,474.27 MT. (Annexure A).

Further, in respect of smaller drains (less than 4 ft.), MCD has removed about 38961.59 MT of silt w.e.f. 1.1.2025 to 30.6.2025 against the targeted quantity of 40086 MT. (Annexure B).

It is pertinent to mention here that MCD maintains only 14.26% larger drains in NCT of Delhi. Other departments of GNCTD like PWD, I&FC, DDA etc. maintains drains under their jurisdiction (Annexure C), therefore their report of desilting may also be sought so as to apprise Hon'ble NGT in the matter.

Encl:- As above.

(Signature)
Chief Engineer/SSZ



MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

SUB:- Report of Desilting of Nallah having width / depth more than 4' falling under the jurisdiction of MCD for the year 2025-26.

ABSTRACT

30.06.2025

S. No.	Name of Zone / Divisions	Total Nos. of Nallah	Length in Km	Total Quantity of silt targeted to be removed w.e.f 01.01.25 to 30.06.25 (MT)	Total Quantity of silt removed from 01.01.25 to 30.06.2025 (MT)
1	South	71	45.95	10169.27	11165.95
2	Central	65	50.70	39302.99	61386.47
3	West	133	83.435	12060.90	14070.66
4	Najafgarh	120	107.58	22749.55	24713.15
5	Shah.(N)	115	65.22	19520.89	24125.52
6	Shah. (S)	108	60.53	14897.52	23519.228
7	City - SP	10	5.31	529	691.33
8	Karol Bagh	32	23.39	3259.32	3979.84
9	Civil Line	16	6.94	516.32	1024.685
10	Keshavpuram	39	24.01	1039.08	2189.22
11	Rohini	50	28.97	1602.04	2336.59
12	Narela	41	28.79	827.39	1417.25
	G. TOTAL	800	530.825	126474.27	170619.89
Total desilting % till date w.e.f. 01.01.2025 to 30.06.25					134.90

Note 1:- This year 1,70,619.89 MT of silt has been removed w.e.f. 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025 against the targeted quantity of 1,26,474.27 MT which is 134.90 % achievement.

Note 2:- Last year in the same period i.e. 01.01.2024 to 30.06.2024, about 78,000 MT of silt was removed whereas this year in the same period i.e. 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025 about 1,70,619.89 MT of silt has been removed from the bigger drains (more than 4 ft.) which is 2.18 times of the silt quantity which was removed last year which is a significant achievement.

14
S.E./SSZ

ASW/SSZ

J.E (CDU 11)

Annexure 'B'

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MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

Sub: Status report of De-silting of drains having depth less than 4ft.'

Dt. 30.06.2025

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
S.No.	Name of Zone	No. of Drains having depth < 4	Length of Drain (In KM)	Target of Silt taken out from drain (Qty. In MT)	De-silting carried out upto Last week (As on 23.06.2025) (Qty. In MT)	De-silting carried out during this week (Qty. In MT) (As on 30.06.2025)	Cumulative de-silting carried out till date (Qty. In MT)	% of silt Qty. removed
				A	B	C	D=B+C	(D/A) x100
1	SSZ	221	180.44	181.31	169.00	3.00	172.00	94.87
2	NGZ	2858	327.74	3277.00	5025.00	398.00	5423.00	165.49
3	SZ	833	756.00	9997.00	9069.00	135.00	9204.00	92.07
4	CNZ	7019	1370.00	4191.00	3867.33	71.00	3938.33	93.97
5	WZ	843	2918.00	9900.00	8473.00	900.00	9373.00	94.68
6	SNZ	303	173.19	4885.00	4885.00	0.00	4885.00	100.00
7	RZ	225	102.96	1500.00	1150.17	40.19	1190.36	79.36
8	CSPZ	19	5.37	68.00	118.00	6.28	124.28	182.76
9	KPZ	152	66.16	1029.00	1026.90	132.90	1159.80	112.71
10	CLZ	244	112.11	2684.00	1617.52	95.90	1713.42	63.84
11	KBZ	65	33.20	874.00	748.24	48.17	796.41	91.12
12	NZ	110	24.71	1500.00	943.00	39.00	982.00	65.47
Total		12892	6069.88	40086	37092.16	1869.43	38961.59	97.19

H
ASW/SSZ.
ASW/SSZ
J.E (CENTL)

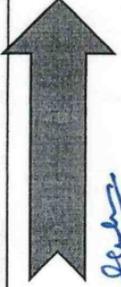


Department Wise Drainage Length in NCT of Delhi

Source- I&FC Deptt.

S. No.	Department	No. of drains (4 Ft. and above)	Length (in km.)	Percentage (%)
1	PWD	1375	2064	55.44%
2	MCD	800	530.83	14.26%
3	NDMC	261	335	9.00%
4	DDA	124	251	6.74%
5	I&FC	57+20*	402	10.80%
6	DSIIDC & Other Departments	384	140	3.76%
	Total	2846	3722.8	100%

*20 additional drains outfalling in river Yamuna in Delhi taken up by I&FCD on the direction of Hon'ble High Court



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