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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELH

I.A. NO. \_\_\_\_\_ OF 2026

IN

I.A. NO. 329 OF 2024

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 6/2012

IN THE MATTER OF:  
NIZAMUDDIN WEST  
ASSOCIATION

APPLICANT

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS

RESPONDENTS

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Date:20/03/2026

Place: New Delhi



THROUGH

*Priyanka*

Priyanka swami  
Advocate

Standing Counsel For DJB  
F-13, Jangpura, New Delhi 110014

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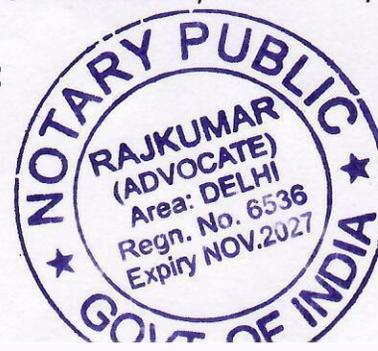
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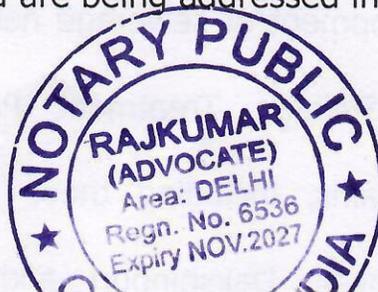
**REPLY ON BEHALF OF DELHI JAL BOARD TO THE APPLICATION  
SEEKING DIRECTIONS WITH AFFIDAVIT.**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

That I, Pankaj Kumar Atray, S/o Late Shri A.P. Sharma, aged about 56 years, presently working as Chief Engineer (Drainage), Project-I, Delhi Jal Board, GNCTD, Jhandewalan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, do hereby solemnly affirm and respectfully submit as under:



1. That the present reply is being filed on behalf of the answering Respondent, Delhi Jal Board (hereinafter referred to as "DJB"), in response to the Application filed by the Applicant seeking issuance of directions in relation to the alleged condition of the Defence Colony Drain (DC Drain). The answering Respondent submits that it is taking comprehensive measures being undertaken for interception, diversion, and treatment of sewage in the concerned catchment.
2. That it is submitted that the answering Respondent has been actively undertaking measures for interception and diversion of sewage flowing into various drains, including those ultimately discharging into the Barapullah Drain system. As part of these efforts, out of the 43 identified drains, 17 drains have already been successfully trapped, and substantial progress has been achieved in preventing untreated sewage from entering the river system. Further, 01 drain is targeted to be trapped by 31.03.2026, while 22 drains are under execution and are targeted for completion by 30.06.2026. Certain drains involve complexities relating to unsewered areas and are being addressed in a phased manner.

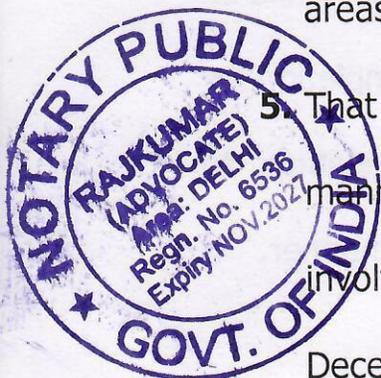


3. The current status of interception and diversion works is summarized herein below for the convenience of this Hon'ble Tribunal:

S. No.	Number of Drains	Status
1	17	Successfully trapped
2	01	Targeted by 31.03.2026
3	01	Pertains to NDMC – under coordination
4	02	Two years after award of work
5	22	Targeted by 30.06.2026

4. That it is pertinent to mention that DJB is under bidding process for implementation of in situ treatment of the Defence colony drain and that the in situ treatment will enable control over odour and pollution in the drain, until the construction of DSTPs in upstream areas is completed.

5. That in order to address such issues in a sustainable and long-term manner, DJB has already formulated a comprehensive plan involving development of sewerage network and establishment of Decentralized Sewage Treatment Plants (DSTPs) for major contributing drains, including those originating from Mehrauli, Chhatarnur, Saket, Dakshinuri and Saidullahiab areas. The



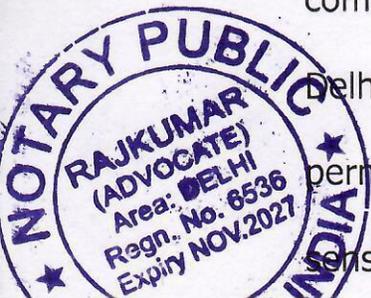
tendering process for the said works is presently underway and is being expedited.

6. It is further submitted that the implementation of sewerage infrastructure in certain areas is subject to statutory permissions, particularly where the concerned colonies fall within the Forest/Morphological Ridge or are categorized as affluent unauthorized colonies under PM-UDAY framework. In this regard, DJB has already taken proactive steps by approaching the competent authorities for necessary approvals so that sewage may be effectively intercepted and diverted.

7. That prior thereto, DJB had also addressed a communication dated 12.01.2026 to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), inter alia seeking clarity and permission for provision of sewerage infrastructure in affluent unauthorized colonies, in the absence of a clear regulatory framework for sewerage services in such areas.

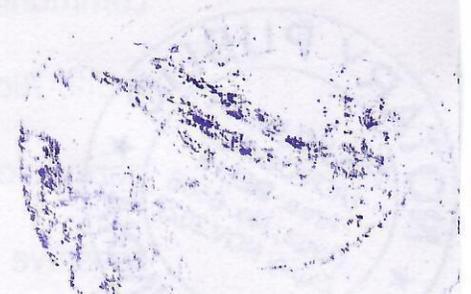
**True copy of letter dated 12.01.2026 is attached herewith and marked as ANNEXURE P/1.**

8. That DJB has also approached the Forest Department vide communication dated 13.03.2026 for placing the matter before the Delhi Ridge Management Board to enable grant of necessary permissions for execution of sewerage works in environmentally sensitive zones. **True copy of letter dated 13.03.2026 is**



**attached herewith and marked as ANNEXURE P/2.**

- 9.** That it is submitted that the answering Respondent has been consistently placing on record before this Hon'ble Tribunal that interim measures such as diversion and interception of sewage are being undertaken to the extent feasible; however, complete elimination of sewage inflow into drains is contingent upon creation of an integrated sewerage network, which necessarily involves coordinated execution by multiple agencies including DUSIB for laying of collection networks in JJ clusters.
- 10.** That the allegations regarding foul odour, accumulation of waste, and emission of gases, as stated in the Application (particularly supported by photographs at pages 11-18 of the Application ), are primarily attributable to stagnation and accumulation of solid waste and silt, which fall within the domain of the concerned municipal



authority responsible for drain maintenance and desilting. The answering Respondent is, however, continuing its efforts to reduce sewage inflow, which is one of the contributing factors.

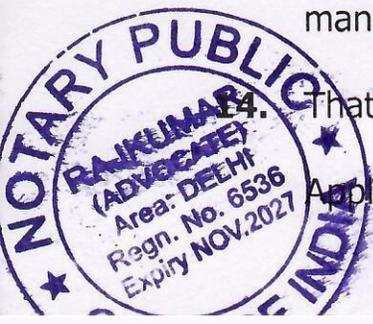
- 11.** That it is denied that the answering Respondent has failed to take steps for preventing entry of untreated sewage into the DC Drain.

On the contrary, the record would demonstrate that DJB is actively implementing both short-term interception measures and long-term infrastructure solutions, subject to statutory permissions and inter-agency coordination.

- 12.** That the Applicant has sought directions for immediate diversion of sewage as an interim measure; however, it is submitted that such diversion cannot be undertaken in isolation without ensuring availability of downstream sewer capacity and treatment facilities, failing which it may lead to systemic overloading and unintended environmental consequences.

- 13.** That the answering Respondent remains committed to compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal and is taking all necessary steps in a time-bound manner to ensure effective sewage management in the concerned areas.

- 14.** That in light of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, the present Application, to the extent it seeks directions against DJB, does not



call for any further directions beyond the compliance measures already in progress.

Through

Delhi Jal Board



### VERIFICATION

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby verify that the contents of writ petition are true and correct to my knowledge and belief. Nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

**ATTESTED**

**NOTARY PUBLIC  
20 MAR 2026**

**DEPONENT**

**PANKAJ KUMAR ATRAY  
Chief Engineer (Dr.) Pr.-I  
Delhi Jal Board, Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
Varunalaya Ph.-II, Jhandewalan  
New Delhi-110005**

**DEPONENT**

**PANKAJ KUMAR ATRAY  
Chief Engineer (Dr.) Pr.-I  
Delhi Jal Board, Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
Varunalaya Ph.-II, Jhandewalan  
New Delhi-110005**



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER(C)-4  
JAL SADAN, LAJPAT NAGAR  
NEW DELHI- 110024  
email: addlcedrpr2@gmail.com



"Wear Masks, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

"STOP CORONA;

No. DJB/SE(Const.)-4/2026/ 13

Dated: 12/01/26

To,

Director (PM-UDAY)  
Delhi Development Authority  
Vikas Sadan  
INA, New Delhi  
Email- h.kumar2027@dda.gov.in

**Subject: Clarification and Action Plan Regarding Sewage Management in  
Affluent Unauthorised Colonies Covered Under Gazette Notification  
Dated 29.10.2019**

**Reference:**

1. Letter addressed to Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority vide No. No.DJB/CEO/2025/537 dated: 03.07.2025

Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned subject and earlier communication, it is submitted that no response has been received from DDA till date. This matter pertains to the regulations issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs vide Gazette of India notification dated 29.10.2019 titled "The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Recognition of Property Rights of Residents in Unauthorised Colonies) Regulations, 2019." As per the said regulations, no rights are to be conferred or recognised for affluent unauthorised colonies. However, the regulations do not clearly specify the authority responsible for provision, operation, and management of water supply and sewerage services in such colonies.

At present, the sewage generated from these colonies is flowing into sub-drains, which ultimately discharge into Barapullah Drain and thereafter into the River Yamuna, thereby contributing significantly to the pollution load. The matter of pollution of River Yamuna is under active consideration and monitoring by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

In view of the above, it is once again requested that the action plan, if any, for management and treatment of sewage generated from these affluent unauthorised colonies may kindly be disclosed at the earliest. In case no such plan exists, permission may kindly be accorded to Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to lay the requisite sewerage infrastructure for proper collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of wastewater from these areas in the larger interest of public health and environmental protection.

In view of the urgency involved and ongoing proceedings before the Hon'ble NGT, an early response in the matter is requested.

(Adarsh Kumar)

SE (Const)-4

12.01.2026



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
 OFFICE OF THE S.E.(Const.) - 4  
 JAL SADAN, LAJPAT NAGAR  
 NEW DELHI- 110024  
 email: addlcedrpr2@gmail.com



"Wear Masks, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

"STOP CORONA;

No. DJB/SE(Const.)-4/2026/44 .

Dated: 13/03/26

To,

Member-Secretary, Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, GNCT of Delhi,  
 Department of Forest & Wildlife  
 A-Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Bhawan,  
 I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002.  
 Email: [pccf-gnctd@delhi.gov.in](mailto:pccf-gnctd@delhi.gov.in)

**Subject:** Request for placing the case before Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB) for allowing to lay sewer line in unauthorized colonies situated on the forest land under GNCTD to prevent sewage discharge into River Yamuna.

**Reference:** OA No. 06/2012 titled Nizamuddin West Association vs. UOI & Ors. Before hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi.

Sir,

In the last hearing held on 24.02.2026 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, in OA No. 06/2012 titled Nizamuddin West Association vs. UOI & Ors., the counsel for GNCTD informed the Tribunal that for obtaining permissions to provide sewerage networks in unauthorized colonies located on the Forest/Morphological Ridge, the matter is required to be placed before the Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB).

Accordingly, in reference to the notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, published in the Gazette of India on 01.12.2025, the proposal to provide sewerage networks in unauthorized colonies located on the Forest/Morphological Ridge is submitted for placing before the DRMB for consideration to issue necessary permission. The details are as under:

- It is the mandate of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to provide sewerage networks in the unsewered areas of Delhi. During the survey of these areas, local residents informed that certain pockets of unauthorized colonies are situated on the Forest/Morphological Ridge.
- Sewage generated from unauthorized colonies located on forest land under the jurisdiction of the GNCTD cannot be intercepted and diverted in the absence of permission from the Forest Department.
- The proposed sewerage infrastructure works are of a public utility nature and are essential to prevent pollution of the River Yamuna.

- These works are in full consonance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), which are aimed at improving sewerage management in Delhi.
- The proposed sewer lines shall be laid entirely underground, and no tree cutting is involved in the execution of the project. The sole objective of the project is to prevent the further discharge of untreated sewage into forest areas, water bodies, and drains.
- To provide sewerage networks in unauthorized colonies situated on forest land/the Morphological Ridge, the matter may be placed before the Delhi Ridge Management Board (DRMB) for either issuance of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to carry out the sewerage works in such colonies or for directing the Forest Department to provide a designated single-point discharge location for each colony to facilitate trapping and diversion of sewage into the DJB sewerage network.

In view of the urgency involved in controlling environmental degradation and improving sanitation in the area, it is requested that the matter may kindly be placed before the Delhi Ridge Management Board on priority for grant of the necessary permission/NOC to lay sewer lines in the unauthorized colonies situated on the Forest/Morphological Ridge.



SE(Const)-4  
13.03.2026