

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 672/2025

Varun Luthra

... Applicant

Versus

Central Ground Water Authority Ors.

... Respondent(s)

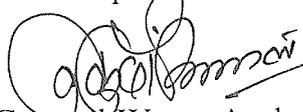
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NewDelhi

Dated: 17-03-2026

Through

Respondent No. 1

(Central Ground Water Authority)
बिनोद कुमार डोड्डियाल / Vinod Kumar Dhaundiyal
प्रशासक / Administrator
केन्द्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण / Central Ground Water Authority
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण
Deptt. of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय / Ministry of Jal Shakti
भारत सरकार / Government of India
17/03/2026


Gigi C. George Advocate

Standing Counsel (UOI)

Ch. No. 457, Lawyers Block, DHC, New Delhi

Gigicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in,

M-9810625315

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

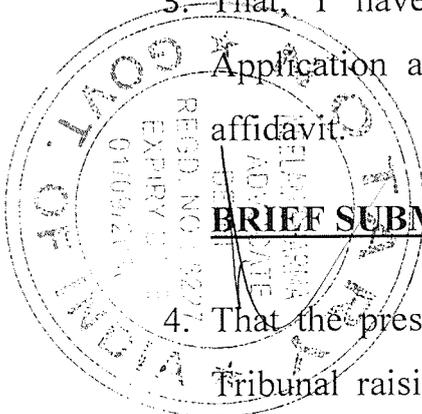
Original Application No. 672/2025

REPLY BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1
CENTRAL GROUND WATER AUTHORITY**It is most respectfully submitted that:**

1. I Vinod Kumar Dhaundiya, aged about 50, working as Administrator, Govt. of India, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, having office at 18/11, Jam Nagar Hosue, Man Singh Road, New Delhi-110016 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under on behalf of **Respondent No. 1 (CGWA)** hereinafter referred to as Answering Respondent.
2. That I am in my aforementioned official capacity, well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the documents and records available in the department. As such, I am competent and authorized to swear this counter affidavit on behalf of answering respondent.
3. That, I have perused the contents of the above captioned Original Application and I am duly authorized to depose by way of the present affidavit.

BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

4. That the present Original Application has been filed before this Hon'ble Tribunal raising the issue of illegal and unregulated extraction of ground water by Respondents No. 4 to 7 in Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi. The Applicant has alleged that Respondents No. 4 to 7 have installed borewells in their respective properties without obtaining requisite permissions and are



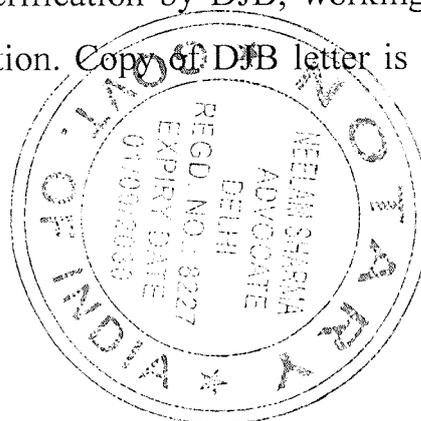
illegally drawing ground water. Initially, the said extraction was used for construction purposes, but subsequently, it is being utilized for other purposes.

5. That the matter was listed on 24.12.2025, wherein this Hon'ble Tribunal, vide paragraph 9 of its order, issued the following directions:

“Respondents No. 3 and 9 are directed to do the ground verification and submit the status/action taken report before the Tribunal at least one week before the next date of hearing. The CGWA will monitor the action to be taken by Respondents No. 3 and 9 in this regard.”

6. That in pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble NGT, CGWA vide email dated 19.02.2026, requested Delhi Jal Board (Respondent No. 3) and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Saraswati Vihar, North-West Delhi (Respondent No. 9), to provide the status of ground verification by 23.02.2026. Furthermore, CGWA, vide email dated 09.03.2026, expedited the matter and requested submission of the requisite information by 10.03.2026. Copies of the said emails are annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-I** (colly).

7. That despite the above communications, CGWA has not received any response from DJB and SDM, North-West. Accordingly, CGWA, vide letter dated 11.03.2026, scheduled a meeting with DJB and SDM, North-West on 12.03.2026 under the Chairmanship of the Member Secretary, CGWA. Copy of the said letter is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-II**. However, none of the aforesaid respondents attended the scheduled meeting. CGWA expedited DJB telephonically to take immediate action on priority. Consequently, DJB via letter dated 12.03.2026 informed the SDM, Shalimar Bagh that upon ground verification by DJB, working borewells have been found at each site at question. Copy of DJB letter is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-III**.



③

8. That the SDM, Shalimar Bagh conducted ground verification of the locations on 14.03.2026 and submitted its STATUS REPORT to CGWA vide letter dated 16.03.2026. In the said report, SDM, Shalimar Bagh has confirmed that one (01) borewell located at BD-09, Vishakha Enclave, Pitampura Delhi was sealed on the spot by the inspection team. However, in respect of remaining 03 bore wells, notices have been issued to concerned parties directing them to produce valid permission / NOC or any other supporting documents issued by the competent authority(s) within 03 days. In case of failure, action shall be initiated as per the provision of the law and bore wells will be sealed. Copy of Status Report is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure-IV**.

9. That the present affidavit is being filed on behalf of the Central Ground Water Authority placing the relevant facts and submissions on record for the kind consideration of this Hon'ble Tribunal in the captioned matter.

10. That the present reply may kindly be taken on record and into consideration and the Hon'ble Tribunal may pass appropriate order(s), direction(s) as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.

Deponent

Verification

Verified at New Delhi on 17.03.2026 that the contents of the above affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, nothing material has been concealed there from.

New Delhi

Dated: 17-03-2026

Through


Deponent
बिनोद कुमार ढोडियाल / Vinod Kumar Dhaundiyal
प्रशासक / Administrator
केन्द्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण / Central Ground Water Authority
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास एवं गंगा संरक्षण
Dept of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय / Ministry of Jal Shakti
भारत सरकार / Government of India



Gigi C. George Advocate

Standing Counsel (UOI)

Ch. No. 457, Lawyers Block, DHC, New Delhi

Gigicgeorge.adv42@yahoo.in,

M-9810625315

85

Annexure - I (5)

==== Forwarded message =====

From: CGWA Legalcell <cgwa-legalcell@gov.in>
To: "ceodelhi.djb" <ceodelhi.djb@nic.in>,
"sdmsaraswativihar1" <sdmsaraswativihar1@gmail.com>
Cc: "Pratul Saxena" <mcgwa-cgwb@gov.in>, "Bhushan Ramkrishna Lamsoge" <rdcgwa-cgwb@nic.in>, "VIKAS RANJAN" <vikasranjan-cgwb@gov.in>, "VINOD KUMAR DHAUNDIYAL" <vk.dhaundiyaal-cgwb@gov.in>
Date: Mon, 09 Mar 2026 12:27:40 +0530
Subject: Fwd: OA No. 672 of 2025 titled 'Varun Luthra Vs. CGWA & Ors'-reg.
==== Forwarded message =====

महोदया /महोदय,

Please refer to the trailing mail, wherein CGWA had requested that the action taken so far/current status of the ground verification by Respondent No. 3 & 9 in the matter be provided to this office for further action at this end. However, no response or action taken in the matter has been received from your good selves.

It is, therefore, directed that the action taken in the matter may be provided to this office immediately, or latest by 10.03.2026, for further action.

The matter is listed on 18.03.2026. Top Most Priority May Please Be Accorded.

सन्नेह/Regards

O/o सदस्य सचिव Member Secretary,

केंद्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण(लीगल सेल)/ Central Ground Water Authority (Legal Cell)

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार /Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India

18/11, जामनगर हाउस, मानसिंह रोड, नई दिल्ली-110011/

18/11, Jamnagar House, Mansingh Road, New Delhi-110011

Ph- (011) 23383824; Fax- (011) 23382051;

e-mail: cgwa@nic.in; cgwa-legalcell@gov.in



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 Date: Thu, 19 Feb 2026 10:47:35 +0530
 Subject: OA No. 672 of 2025 titled 'Varun Luthra Vs. CGWA & Ors'-reg.
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महोदया /महोदय,

Please find attached herewith copy of order dated 24.12.2025 passed by the Hon'ble NGT (PB) in the captioned matter, wherein Hon'ble Tribunal vide para 9 of the order directed Respondent No. 3, i.e. Delhi Jal Board & Respondent No.9, i.e. SDM Saraswati Vihar, North-West Delhi to do the ground verification and submit the status/ action taken report before the Hon'ble Tribunal.

CGWA was also directed to monitor the action taken by the respondent no. 3 & 9 in pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Therefore, it is requested that the action taken so far/ current status of the ground verification in the matter may please be provided to this office by **23.02.2026** for further action at this end.

सस्नेह/Regards

O/o सदस्य सचिव Member Secretary,

केंद्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण(लीगल सेल)/ Central Ground Water Authority (**Legal Cell**)

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार /Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India

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4 Attachment(s)

Order dated 24.12.2025.pdf
83.3 KB

OA 672 of 2025 in Varun Luthr...
1.8 MB

Meeting Notice to DJB.pdf
758.5 KB

Meeting Notice to SDM Noth ...
761.2 KB

CGWA Legalcell <cgwa-legalcell@gov.in >

Wed, 11 Mar 2026 11:02:23 AM +0530

To "ceodelhi.djb"<ceodelhi.djb@nic.in>,"sdmsaraswativihar1"<sdmsaraswativihar1@gmail.com>

Cc "Pratul Saxena"<mcgwa-cgwb@gov.in>,"Bhushan Ramkrishna Lamsoge"<rdcgwa-cgwb@nic.in>,"VIKAS RANJAN"<vikasranjan-cgwb@gov.in>,"VINOD KUMAR DHAUNDIYAL"<vk.dhaundiyl-cgwb@gov.in>

MOST IMPORTANT

महोदया /महोदय,

This is with reference to the trailing correspondence and the order dated 24.12.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in O.A. No. 672/2025 titled Varun Luthra vs. CGWA & Ors. In the present matter, the issue of illegal extraction of groundwater by Respondent Nos. 4 to 7 has been raised. The Hon'ble Tribunal, vide paragraph 9 of its order dated 24.12.2026, has directed Respondent No. 3, i.e., Delhi Jal Board, and Respondent No. 9, i.e., SDM District – North West, to carry out ground verification and submit a status/action taken report before the Tribunal at least one week prior to the next date of hearing. Further, the CGWA has been directed to monitor the action to be taken by Respondent Nos. 3 and 9 in this regard.

In view of the above, a meeting has been scheduled on 12.03.2026 at 11:00 AM in the conference hall of Office of the Member Secretary, CGWA, CSMRS Campus, Olaf Palme Marg, Sector - 3, Hauz Khas, RK Puram, New Delhi 110016. Copy of CGWA letter dated 11.03.2026

It is therefore requested to depute concerned officers of Respondent No. 3 and 9 to present the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter by DJB & SDM, North West i.e. R-3 & R-9 respectively.

Following officer may please be contacted for any clarification or query in this regard:

Vinod Kumar Dhaundiyl, Administrator
Central Ground Water Authority
Contact No. 8558808788

सस्नेह/Regards

VK Dhaundiyl, Administrator
O/o सदस्य सचिव Member Secretary,

Fwd: Meeting Notice to review the ground verification in compliance ... <https://mail.mgovcloud.in/zm/?fromService=wp&wpVersion=53d9ec...>

केंद्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण(लीगल सेल)/ Central Ground Water Authority (**Legal Cell**)
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The matter is listed on 18.03.2026. Top Most Priority May Please Be Accorded.

सस्नेह/Regards

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CGWA was also directed to monitor the action taken by the respondent no. 3 & 9 in pursuance of the direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal.

Therefore, it is requested that the action taken so far/ current status of the ground verification in the matter may please be provided to this office by **23.02.2026** for further action at this end.

सस्नेह/Regards

O/o सदस्य सचिव Member Secretary,

केंद्रीय भूजल प्राधिकरण(लीगल सेल)/ Central Ground Water Authority (**Legal Cell**)

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अमृत महत्सव २०२३-२४

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91

11

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जल शक्ति मंत्रालय
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास
और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
केंद्रीय भूमि जल प्राधिकरण



94

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
Central Ground Water Authority

Annexure - II

(14)

No. NGT/PB/123/OA 672/2025 - 132

Dated 11 MAR 2026

To,

The Chief Executive Officer,
Delhi Jal Board,
3rd Floor, Varunalaya Ph - II,
Jhandewalan, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi 110005

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate
SDM Office, Saraswati Vihar
Maurya Enclave, North West Delhi
Delhi-110034

Subject: Meeting to Review Status of Ground Verification by Delhi Jal Board and SDM North West in Compliance with Directions of Hon'ble NGT (PB), New Delhi in OA No. 672/2025 Varun Luthra Vs. CGWA & Ors

Reference: (i) Order of Hon'ble NGT dated 24.12.2025
(ii) This office emails dated 19.02.2026 & 27.02.2026

Respected Sir/Madam,

This has reference to the order dated 24.12.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi in OA No. 672/2025, wherein the issue of illegal extraction of groundwater by Respondent Nos. 4 to 7 has been raised.

Vide para 9 of the aforesaid order, the Hon'ble Tribunal directed Respondent No. 3 (Delhi Jal Board) and Respondent No. 9 (SDM, North West District) to carry out ground verification and submit a status/action taken report before the Tribunal at least one week prior to the next date of hearing. Further, CGWA was directed to monitor the action taken by Respondent Nos. 3 and 9 in this regard.

In pursuance of the above directions, CGWA requested Respondent Nos. 3 and 9 via email dated 19.02.2026 to undertake the ground verification and furnish the Action Taken Report by 23.02.2026. However, no response was received. Consequently, CGWA reiterated the request vide email dated 27.02.2026, directing submission of the report by 10.03.2026. It is regretted to note that despite repeated communications, no response has been received either from DJB or SDM, North West till date.

In view of the above, a meeting has been scheduled on 12.03.2026 at 11:00 AM in the Conference Hall, Office of the Member Secretary, CGWA, CSMRS Campus, Olaf Palme Marg, Sector-3, Hauz Khas, RK Puram, New Delhi - 110016.

Contd on Page 2

C.S.M.R.S. Campus, Olaf Palme Marg, Sector-3, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
Ph- (011) 20863525; e-mail: cgwa@nic.in

-2-

You are requested to kindly depute the concerned officers of Respondent Nos. 3 and 9 to present the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter in the meeting.

For any clarification, the following officer may be contacted:

Shri Vinod Kumar Dhaundiyal
Administrator, Central Ground Water Authority
Contact No.: 8558808788



(Administrator, CGWA)
For Member Secretary
Central Ground Water Authority
New Delhi



DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)-17
MU BLOCK PITAMPURA, DELHI 110088

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

No. DJB/EE(C)-17/2025-26/1332

Dated: 12/03/26

✓ The SDM Shalimar Bagh,
Old Middle School Building, Rampura,
Delhi- 110035

Subject- Action taken so far/ current status of the ground verification of borewells at below mentioned addresses in Pitampura.

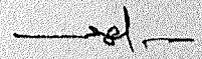
Reff – O.A. 672/2025 Varun Luthra v/s CGWA & Ors.

In view of above cited subject & reference O.A. 672/2025 Varun Luthra v/s CGWA & Ors regarding submission of current status of borewells in Pitampura as desired by Member Secretary CGWA(Legal Cell), it is submitted that the sites have been checked and working borewells have been found at each site. The addresses with latitude-longitude are as mentioned below :-

1. TU – 34 , Pitampura (28.706919,77.141048)
2. BD-09, Vishakha Enclave, Pitampura (28.706704, 77.137246)
3. SU-213, Pitampura (28.706552, 77.140478)
4. SU-152, Pitampura (28.706841, 77.140959)

Submitted for futher necessary action please.

Encl: - As above


AE (C)-02

Copy to: -

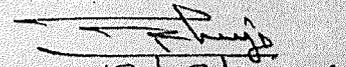
1. SE(C)-07
2. EE (C)-17 for kind information pls
3. Sh. Utkarsh JE to pursue
4. O/C

SDM (Shalimar Bagh)

Diary No. 714

Date 13/03/2026

72h/515


12/03/2026
(Rakesh Dahiyia)
AE (C)-02



Annexure - IV

17

OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE: SHALIMAR BAGH
DISTRICT CENTRAL NORTH, REVENUE DEPARTMENT, GNCT OF DELHI
DM OFFICE COMPLEX, RAMPURA, DELHI-110035

F. No. SDM (SHB)/Bore-well/2026/261-262

Dated: 16/03/2026

To,

Member, secretary (Legal Cell),
Central Ground Water Authority
Ministry of Jal Shakti, CSMRS Campus,
Olof Palme Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016.

Sub: Action taken so far / current status of the ground verification of borewells at below mentioned addresses in Pitampura.

Ref.: O.A. 672/2025 Varun Luthra v/s CGWA & Ors.

Sir,

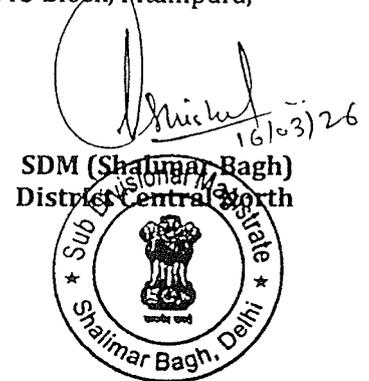
Please refer to Letter No. DJB/EE (C)-17/2025-26/1332 dated- 12.03.2026 received from AE(C)-02, Delhi Jal Board, Office of Executive Engineer (C)-17, MU Block, Pitampura, Delhi regarding the action taken/current status of ground verification of borewell located at Pitampura, Delhi, in reference to O.A. No. 672/2025 titled **Varun Luthra v/s CGWA & Ors.**, as desired by your office.

In this regard, please find enclosed herewith the status report for your kind information and further necessary action, please.

Encls: As Above

Copy for information to:

1. EE/AE (C)-02 Delhi Jal Board, GNCTD, O/o Executive Engineer (C)-17, MU Block, Pitampura, Delhi-110088.



OFFICE OF THE SUB-DIVISIONAL MAGISTRATE: SHALIMAR BAGH
DISTRICT CENTRAL NORTH, REVENUE DEPARTMENT, GNCT OF DELHI
DM OFFICE COMPLEX, RAMPURA, DELHI-110035

STATUS REPORT

Sub: Action Taken so far/ Current Status of ground verification of borewells located at Pitampura, Delhi in reference to O.A. No. 672/2025 titled Varun Luthra vs. CGWA & Ors.

In reference to the letter received in this office vide **Diary No. 714 dated 13.03.2026** from **AE (C)-02, Delhi Jal Board**, Office of the Executive Engineer (C)-17, MU Block, Pitampura, Delhi regarding action taken/current status of ground verification of the following borewell(s):

1. TU-34, Pitampura, Delhi – Latitude/Longitude: (28.706919, 77.141048)
2. BD-09, Vishakha Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi – Latitude/Longitude: (28.706704, 77.137246)
3. SU-213, Pitampura, Delhi – Latitude/Longitude: (28.706552, 77.140478)
4. SU-152, Pitampura, Delhi – Latitude/Longitude: (28.706841, 77.140959)

The matter pertains to **O.A. No. 672/2025 titled Varun Luthra vs. CGWA & Ors.** as desired by the Member Secretary, Central Ground Water Authority (Legal Cell).

In this regard, it is submitted that a team from this office conducted **ground verification of the above-mentioned locations on 14.03.2026.**

During the inspection, the following action was taken:

- One (01) borewell located at **BD-09, Vishakha Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi (Latitude/Longitude: 28.706704, 77.137246)** was sealed on the spot by the inspection team.
- In respect of the remaining three (03) borewells, namely:
 1. TU-34, Pitampura, Delhi – (28.706919, 77.141048)
 2. SU-213, Pitampura, Delhi – (28.706552, 77.140478)
 3. SU-152, Pitampura, Delhi – (28.706841, 77.140959)

Notices have been issued to the concerned parties directing them to produce valid permission / NOC or any other supporting documents issued by the competent authority for installation and operation of the aforesaid borewells within **03 days** from the date of issuance of the notice.

It has further been informed in the notices that in case of failure to produce the requisite permission / NOC or any supporting documents within the stipulated period of **03 days**, action shall be initiated as per the provisions of law and the aforesaid borewells shall be sealed without any further notice in order to prevent unauthorized extraction of groundwater.

This is submitted for kind information and further necessary action.

