

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION**

(Under Section 18(1) read with Sections 14, 15, 17 & 27 of the
National Green Tribunal Act, 2010)

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 116 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESIDENT WELFARE ASSOCIATION ...APPLICANT
A-1 BLOCK JANAKPURI

VERSUS

DELHI JAL BOARD & ORS. ...RESPONDENTS

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DATE: 08.03.2026
PLACE: NEW DELHI

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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT TO THE
PROGRESS REPORT FILED ON 03.03.2026 BY
RESPONDENT NO.1**

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH THAT:

1. The present Reply is necessitated due to the Progress Report filed by the Respondent No.1/Delhi Jal Board, in compliance of Order dated 10.12.2025 in O.A. No. 116 of 2025.

2. However, at the outset, it is most respectfully submitted that all the averments, contents, allegations and submissions made by the Respondent No.1 in the Progress Report are denied as being based on false, concocted, misleading, misconceived facts and grounds, unless specifically admitted hereinafter to be true and correct. Nothing stated in the present Reply should be deemed to be admitted for the want of specific transverse.

3. That, the present Reply is confined to raising preliminary objections and placing the true and correct facts before this Hon'ble Court. It is respectfully submitted that a para-wise response to the progress report has not been furnished herein solely for the sake of brevity. The omission of a line-to-line denial shall not, in any manner, be construed as an admission of the statements, allegations, or averments made in the progress report, all of which are specifically denied unless expressly admitted herein.

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS:

4. That the Respondent No.1's Progress Report conspicuously avoids addressing the alarming conditions presently prevailing on the ground, where large portions of A-1 Block resemble an active sanitation hazard rather than a functioning residential locality. The actual situation reflects multiple failures in basic sanitation management, including:
 - (i) *Deep excavation trenches left open and unsecured along residential lanes;*
 - (ii) *no barricading, safety signage or protective measures have been installed by the Respondent No.1 authorities near the excavation for laying sewer lines;*
 - (iii) *Open and exposed manholes without protective covers;*
 - (iv) *Stagnant pools of wastewater mixed with sewage and construction debris accumulating around the excavation sites; and*

- (v) *Sewage discharge flowing into stormwater drains that stand choked with debris and mud from the ongoing works.*

The photographs placed on record clearly demonstrate these hazardous conditions, including deep uncovered trenches, open manholes and sewage-contaminated stagnant water collecting in public spaces. The cumulative effect of these conditions has led to a near collapse of sanitation in the locality. Residents are forced to navigate daily through lanes containing exposed pits and foul-smelling stagnant water, creating an environment conducive to mosquito breeding and serious public health risks. True copies of the photographs taken on 07.03.2026 showing open excavation trenches, exposed manholes and sewage-laden stagnant water within the locality are annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE A-1**.

5. That, as a direct consequence of the ongoing works being executed without adequate safeguards, wastewater has now escaped the confines of the sewer network and is visibly flowing into the stormwater drains running through the residential lanes. In several stretches, sewage is no longer contained within the underground sewer system but is mixing with stormwater channels meant exclusively for rainwater discharge. This collapse of segregation between sewer and stormwater systems fundamentally defeats the basic principles of urban sanitation management.
6. More alarmingly, the continued presence of sewage-laden water within these drains and excavation trenches allows

sewage to percolate into the surrounding sub-soil, thereby contaminating the underlying soil strata and posing a serious risk to natural aquifers and groundwater reserves. Such uncontrolled infiltration not only endangers the immediate sanitation environment but also threatens long-term groundwater quality in the area. The continuing discharge of sewage into stormwater infrastructure therefore reflects a systemic and environmentally hazardous failure in sanitation management, rather than a temporary inconvenience arising out of construction activity.

7. That this situation poses an immediate risk of vector-borne and water-borne disease outbreaks. Instead of restoring sanitation, the ongoing work has effectively created a continuous open-sewage exposure zone within a residential colony. Such neglect demonstrates that the present works are being carried out without adequate planning, supervision or public safety safeguards, thereby subjecting residents to conditions that are not merely inconvenient but profoundly hazardous to public health.
8. That the excavation and pipeline work in the locality are being carried out with a complete absence of basic safety safeguards. Deep trenches and open pits have been left exposed across several residential lanes without barricades, warning boards, lighting or any form of protective covering. These excavations blend into the road surface, particularly after sunset, making them extremely difficult to notice. Children who play in the colony lanes and elderly residents moving about the neighbourhood are forced to pass dangerously close to these pits on a daily basis. Residents

have reported injuries caused due to uneven path adjacent to the pits/trenches/excavated areas. A single misstep or moment of poor visibility result in a fall into these trenches with serious injuries which could be fatal.

9. That the danger is not hypothetical. Residents have already reported instances of people slipping and spraining on the uneven ground and narrowly avoiding falls into the open trenches. The roads remain broken, unstable and scattered with loose debris from the excavation works, making ordinary movement through the colony hazardous. Despite this, no barricading, safety signage or protective measures have been installed by the Respondent No.1 authorities. Public works undertaken in this residential area is being executed in a manner that has turned the streets into accident zones. The present situation exposes residents particularly children and elderly persons to daily risk of injury, reflecting a serious lapse in the duty of care and responsibility owed to the community.
10. That the Applicant respectfully submits that the Respondent No.1 has attempted to portray the present situation as a temporary inconvenience during infrastructure improvement. However, the ground reality is far more serious. The sewer system in the affected stretch has effectively ceased regular functioning and instead requires daily mechanical pumping of sewage in order to prevent complete overflow. This practice itself establishes that the sewer infrastructure is presently incapable of handling routine wastewater flow. A sewer system which requires manual pumping every day

cannot be considered operational or functional by any engineering standard. Such pumping operations are only emergency stop-gap measures meant to temporarily prevent catastrophic overflow, not permanent sanitation solutions.

11. That the present construction activities undertaken by Respondent No.1 have also resulted in substantial blockage of the storm water drainage network. Excavated soil, broken concrete, brick fragments and construction debris have been left scattered along the road edges and within the drainage channels. These materials have effectively choked the rainwater drains that normally carry surface runoff away from residential areas. Consequently, during rainfall events or water discharge from nearby properties, water begins accumulating along the roads and excavation pits. When this stagnant water mixes with sewage overflow from damaged sewer segments, it creates pools of contaminated water directly within residential lanes. Such conditions significantly increase the risk of contamination entering underground pipelines through loose soil infiltration or damaged joints. Despite repeated complaints from residents, the Respondent No.1 has not undertaken systematic clearing of debris or restoration of drainage channels. Instead, the report merely highlights isolated sections of pipeline installation while ignoring the broader environmental consequences of incomplete excavation work.
12. That the Progress Report filed by Respondent No.1 conspicuously fails to disclose how long this pumping arrangement is expected to continue, who supervises the

pumping operations and what safeguards exist to prevent spillage during pumping. The residents have repeatedly complained of sewage accumulation around the pumping points and within nearby pits. The continued reliance on pumping therefore demonstrates that the sewer line replacement or restoration remains incomplete and that the area continues to operate under emergency sanitation conditions. This condition directly contradicts the impression sought to be created by Respondent No.1 that the situation is under control.

13. That the combined effect of open trenches, sewage accumulation, blocked drains and ongoing excavation has created living conditions that can only be described as a civic nightmare for the residents of A-1 Block. Access to homes has become hazardous, particularly for elderly residents who must navigate uneven surfaces and exposed pits. The persistent foul smell from stagnant sewage and wastewater has made daily life extremely distressing. Mosquito breeding in stagnant water further raises the risk of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, malaria, etc. Residents are also forced to remain constantly vigilant to avoid accidental falls into excavation pits or sewage-filled trenches.
14. That Respondent No.1's progress report completely fails to acknowledge the human impact of these conditions. The focus remains confined to technical references about pipe laying progress without recognising the severe hardship imposed on residents. Such disregard for public welfare

demonstrates that the project is being executed with inadequate regard for the health, safety and dignity of the people living in the area.

15. That the Respondent No.1 has also failed to reiterate their commitment for completion of the sewer line on or before the deadline. The report vaguely refers to ongoing progress without specifying the exact stages of completion, the expected dates for sewer line restoration, and the schedule for closing excavation pits and restoring the roads. An infrastructure project of this nature has not been operating within defined timelines and milestones and the residents are not aware of the duration of disruption they must endure. No extension should be granted to the Respondent or their contractors, and they must abide by the deadlines committed by them, i.e. on or before 30.04.2026. Their solemn statement has also been recorded in the Order dated 10.12.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
16. However, the Respondent No.1's submissions leave residents completely uncertain about when normal civic conditions will be restored. This lack of transparency creates legitimate apprehension that the present disruption may continue indefinitely and beyond their committed deadline, which must not be permitted by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
17. That it is respectfully submitted that the Respondent No.1 has attempted to project the laying of certain sections of water pipeline as evidence of progress towards safe drinking water supply. However, the Applicant submits that isolated

installation of pipe segments cannot ensure potable water supply when the surrounding infrastructure remains compromised. Open excavation pits, leaking sewer segments and blocked drainage channels create conditions where contaminated water can easily infiltrate the soil surrounding the pipelines. If pipe joints are not perfectly sealed or if pressure variations occur within the distribution system, contaminated groundwater or sewage can enter the pipelines. Therefore, unless the entire sanitation environment surrounding the pipelines is stabilised, the mere installation of pipes cannot eliminate contamination risk. The Respondent No.1's piecemeal approach therefore fails to address the systemic nature of the contamination problem.

18. That the Report filed by Respondent No.1 appears designed primarily to create an impression of administrative progress rather than to provide a truthful account of the prevailing conditions on the ground. The document relies heavily on internal reporting and selective descriptions of construction work while ignoring the visible sanitation failures currently affecting the locality. Residents continue to witness open pits filled with wastewater, sewage pumping operations and blocked drains. These realities stand in stark contrast to the impression of orderly infrastructure improvement suggested in the Progress Report. Such discrepancies undermine the credibility of the Respondent No.1's submissions and raise serious concerns about the adequacy of supervision over the ongoing project.

19. That the present conditions amount not merely to temporary inconvenience but to a continuing environmental and public health hazard. The exposure of residents to sewage overflow, stagnant wastewater and construction debris significantly increases the likelihood of disease outbreaks and environmental contamination. The mixing of sewage with surface runoff and stormwater drains also increases the risk of pollutants entering surrounding soil and groundwater systems. These risks directly fall within the jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Tribunal, which has consistently emphasised the importance of preventing environmental harm arising from defective civic infrastructure. The Respondent No.1's failure to promptly rectify these conditions therefore warrants strict oversight and directions from this Hon'ble Tribunal.
20. That in view of the circumstances described above, the Applicant submits that no assurances have been given by Respondent No.1. The residents of the Applicant A-1 Block require firm guarantees that the sanitation crisis presently affecting their neighbourhood will be brought to a definitive end within a fixed timeframe. The Respondent No.1 must therefore be directed to provide a binding completion assurance specifying the final date by which all excavation pits will be closed, sewer line functionality fully restored, drainage channels cleared and road surfaces reinstated. Only such clear commitments can restore confidence among residents that the present nightmare conditions will not continue indefinitely.

21. The Applicant therefore prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may issue appropriate directions requiring Respondent No.1 to complete the entire infrastructure restoration within a defined schedule as recorded in the Order dated 10.12.2025, and to submit periodic progress reports confirming compliance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully prayed that relief may kindly be granted in favour of the Applicant Society.

DRAWN ON:- 07.03.2026

DATE: 08.03.2026

PLACE: NEW DELHI

(DIVYAKANT LAHOTI)

Advocate for the Applicant

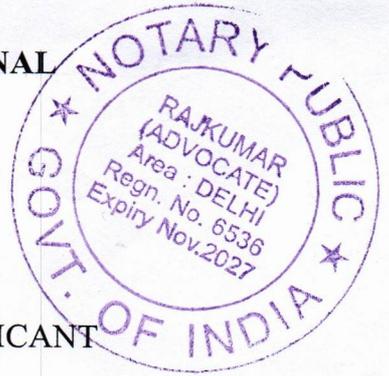
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IN THE MATTER OF:

RESIDENT WELFARE ASSOCIATION
A-1 BLOCK JANAKPURI

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

DELHI JAL BOARD & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajesh Mahajan, S/o Shri. N L Mahajan Aged 53 years, R/o A-1/271, FF, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

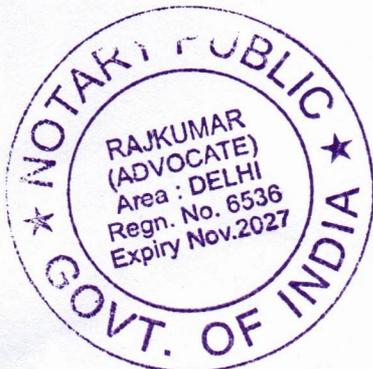
1. That I am the General Secretary of the Petitioner RWA A-1 Block, Janakpuri herein and as such I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances leading to the present case and I am competent to swear to this Affidavit.
2. That the contents of the Reply which have been drafted under my instructions and state that the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the record of the case which I believe to be true and correct the best of my knowledge and belief.
3. That the Annexures to the reply are true copies of their respective originals.

[Signature]
For Residents Welfare Association (Regd.)
A-1 Block, Janakpuri.
DEPONENT
Gen. Secretary

VERIFICATION:

Verified at .DELHI..... on this the day 07 of March, 2026 that the contents of this Affidavit as true and correct to my knowledge and belief and that no part of it is false and nothing material is concealed therefrom.

[Signature]
For Residents Welfare Association (Regd.)
A-1 Block, Janakpuri.
DEPONENT
Gen. Secretary



ATTESTED

NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI

07 MAR 2026



J3GC+5FF DAD Park, Block A1,,



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 12:36 pm 07/03/2026



J3GC+5FF DAD Park, Block A1,,



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Alahati

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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

Service of Reply to Progress Report filed on 03.03.2026 by Respondent No. 1 | Resident Welfare Association A-1 Block Janakpuri v. Delhi Jal Board & Ors. (Original Application No. 116 of 2025)

From Rahul Singh <office@Lahotiadvocates.com>

Date Sun 3/8/2026 9:17 PM

To ceodelhi.djb@nic.in <ceodelhi.djb@nic.in>; Prabhsahay Kaur <sahayk@gmail.com>; sneh.lata71@nic.in <sneh.lata71@nic.in>; Patrick.ekka@nic.in <patrick.ekka@nic.in>; v.singsit@gov.in <v.singsit@gov.in>; ashokl.kr48@gov.in <ashokl.kr48@gov.in>; chdpcc@nic.in <chdpcc@nic.in>; mscb.cpcb@nic.in <mscb.cpcb@nic.in>; Advocate Raj Kumar <advrajkumar@gmail.com>; cgwb@nic.in <cgwb@nic.in>; csdelhi@nic.in <csdelhi@nic.in>

Cc Divyakant Lahoti <divyakant@Lahotiadvocates.com>; Shreya Gokel <shreya@Lahotiadvocates.com>

1 attachment (2 MB)

Reply to Progress Affidavit March_2026.pdf;

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

Dear Sir/Ma'am

This is in reference to the above-captioned matter pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench. Please find attached herewith reply filed on behalf of applicant to the Progress Report filed on 03.03.2026 by Respondent No.1

Thanking you

Regards,

Rahul Singh
Office of Mr. Divyakant Lahoti
Lahoti Advocates