

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 234/2025**

In the matter of:

NEWS ITEM TITLED "PERENNIAL RIVER TO, SLOW-MOVING DRAIN, GOMTI WATER QUALITY RAISES ALARM IN LUCKNOW APPEARING IN THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DATED 04.05.2025"

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**Filed by Advocate Suman Arora
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

Place: Delhi

Dated: 16.09.2025



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REPLY ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (CPCB), RESPONDENT No. 3

Most respectfully showeth:

1. That the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, (hereinafter referred to as the "Hon'ble NGT") vide Order dated 13.05.2025 in O.A. No. 234/2025 has taken cognizance of the News item titled "perennial river to, slow-moving drain, Gomti water quality raises alarm in Lucknow appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 04.05.2025" and have impleaded the Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as CPCB) and has directed to file reply in the matter. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs. A copy of the Order dated 13.05.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal is appended herewith as **ANNEXURE – I**.
2. That CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "water Act, 1974"); the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act,



1981 (hereinafter referred to as "Air Act, 1981) and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. That the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to as "SPCB/PCC s") have been constituted in States/Union Territories under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 and are empowered to perform functions and implement the provisions of these Acts in respect of territories falling in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

4. National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP)

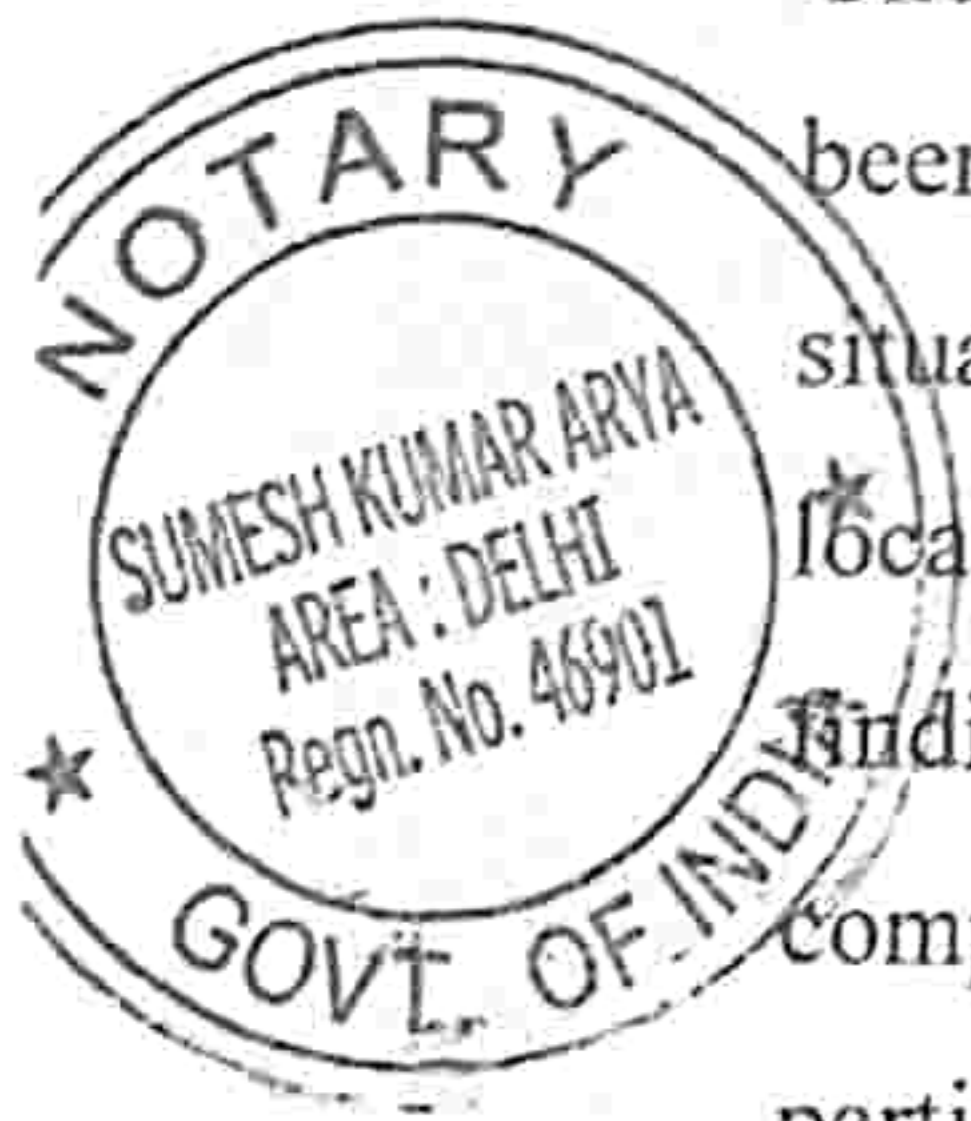
CPCB in coordination with SPCBs/PCCs has established National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). At present, the network consists of 4736 locations including 2155 locations on Rivers.

5. Water quality of river Gomti

Under the NWMP, a total of 20 water quality monitoring locations have been established along the Gomti River, out of which 08 locations are situated in Lucknow. The water quality data of Gomti River for these 08 locations during the year 2024 is enclosed as **Annexure II**. The analytical findings reveal that all 08 monitoring locations in Lucknow are non-complying with the Primary Water Quality Criteria for Outdoor Bathing, particularly w.r.t dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and faecal coliform.

6. Polluted River Stretches identified by CPCB

Using the water quality data under NWMP, CPCB identifies Polluted River Stretches (PRS) in the country based on exceedance of Bathing



Water Quality Criteria BOD limit (exceeding 3 mg/L). PRS are classified into five priority classes viz. Priority -I (>30 mg/l) to Priority-II (20-30mg/l), Priority-III (10-20 mg/l), Priority-IV (6-10 mg/l) & Priority-V (3-6 mg/l).

Based on the water quality data of the years 2016 and 2017, CPCB identified 351 PRS on 323 rivers during the year 2018 (**Annexure III**) and based on the water quality data of the years 2019 and 2021, CPCB identified 311 PRS on 279 rivers during the year 2022 (**Annexure IV**). The monitoring locations on Gomti river at Lucknow were identified polluted under Priority Class - III in both these assessments.

7. Action taken for rejuvenation of Polluted river stretches identified by CPCB

For rejuvenation of 351 PRS identified by CPCB during the year 2018, action plans were prepared by four-member Committee called "River Rejuvenation Committee" (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/ UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State /Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 ml).

Implementation of time-bound action plans have been assigned to State Government Departments/ UT Administration Departments and are made responsible for rejuvenation of PRS identified in the respective State/UT under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/Union Territory. Overall



responsibility lies with the Chief Secretary, State Governments/UT Administrations.

The progress of implementation of action plans is being reviewed by the RRCs at State Level and by Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti at Central Level. So far, CMC has conducted 18 meetings with States/UTs to review the progress on execution of action plans for rejuvenation of polluted river stretches and the last meetings of the CMC were held on 30/9/2024 & 7/2/2025 respectively.

8. That the answering respondent craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply, if directed, in future.
9. That in the light of the above submissions, 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.



(Nazimuddin)
Scientist 'F'

Central Pollution Control Board



**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 234/2025**

In the matter of:

NEWS ITEM TITLED "PERENNIAL RIVER TO, SLOW-MOVING DRAIN, GOMTI WATER QUALITY RAISES ALARM IN LUCKNOW APPEARING IN THE HINDUSTAN TIMES DATED 04.05.2025"

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Nazimuddin** working as Scientist 'F' in Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, the Respondent No. 3 in the above matter, do hereby solemnly affirm, declare on oath and state as under:

1. That I, the deponent herein 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, I am 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.




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

VERIFICATION 16 SEP 2025

Verified at New Delhi on this day of _____ 2025 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.

hazim

DEPONENT

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



ATTESTED
[Signature]
 NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI
 GOVT. OF INDIA
 16 SEP 2025

16 SEP 2025

Item No. 5

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 234/2025

News Item titled "perennial river to, slow-moving drain, Gomti water quality raises alarm in Lucknow Appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 04.05.2025"

Date of hearing: 13.05.2025

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

ORDER

1. This original application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled "perennial river to, slow-moving drain, Gomti water quality raises alarm in Lucknow Appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 04.05.2025"
2. The news item relates to the severe pollution of the Gomti River in Lucknow, which has deteriorated to the extent that it is now considered a "slow-moving drain" rather than a perennial river.
3. According to the article, the presence of water hyacinth, dissolved faecal coliform, and methane bubbles suggests that pollution is severely harming aquatic life. The article states that at Kudiaghat, faecal coliform levels were found to be 40,000 MPN/100ml-significantly higher than the permissible limit of 2,500 MPN/100ml. Similar high levels were observed at Nishatganj Bridge (49,000 MPN/100ml) and Pipraghat (79,000 MPN/100ml).
4. According to the news item, field surveys, drone footage, and reports indicate that untreated sewage, industrial waste, and human waste have

turned the river into a polluted water body that is unfit even for bathing. A joint survey revealed methane hotspots downstream of the Sarkata Nala, a major drain that discharges untreated sewage directly into the Gomti.

5. According to the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), the Gomti maintains drinkable water quality up to Dadhamau Ghat in Sitapur. However, once the river enters Lucknow, its condition deteriorates rapidly. As per the article, water quality at Manjhighat and Gaughat slips to Category 'D'-unsuitable for bathing or supporting aquatic life. From Kudiaghat to Pipraghat, the river further declines to Category 'E', the lowest classification, suitable only for industrial cooling or irrigation.
6. The news item further mentions that dissolved oxygen (DO), which is essential for aquatic life, drops sharply from 10.7 mg/L at Manjhighat to 2.9 mg/L at Kudiaghat, and to a dangerously low level of 1.6 mg/L at Pipraghat-far below the threshold needed to support life. Meanwhile, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution, rises from 3.10 mg/L at Manjhighat to 8.20 mg/L at Kudiaghat and peaks at 12 mg/L at Pipraghat levels far beyond safe limits for human use.
7. Another serious concern highlighted in the article is faecal coliform contamination. At Manjhighat, the level is 2,000 MPN/100ml, but it rises to 40,000 at Kudiaghat, 68,000 near the barrage, and a staggering 1,20,000 MPN/100ml near Bharwara.
8. As per the article, municipal corporation officials admit that approximately 33 major drains (nullahs) discharge around 700 million litres of waste per day into local water bodies. The article also mentions that many sewage treatment plants (STPs) are not functioning at full

capacity or are inadequate for the volume of waste being generated. The largest facility, the Bharwara STP, has a treatment capacity of 345 MLD. Other plants include Daulatganj (56 MLD), Daulatganj II (14 MLD), Vrindavan Colony (37.5 MLD), and a partially operational 120 MLD plant on the Haider Canal.

9. The Gomti is a long river, stretching about 960 kilometers and flowing through many districts in Uttar Pradesh including Pilibhit, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Sitapur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Sultanpur, Jaunpur, and Ghazipur. However, according to the article, the most polluted stretch of the river is in Lucknow.

10. The above matter indicates a violation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016,.

11. The news item raises substantial issues relating to compliance of the environmental norms and implementation of the provisions of scheduled enactment.

12. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognised 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.

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

- i. Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, through it's Member Secretary
Building.No. TC-12V Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar Lucknow-226010
- ii. Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, Through it's Managing Director

6, Rana Pratap Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
226001

iii. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Through its Member
Secretary

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

iv. National Mission for Clean Ganga, Through It's Director
General

1st Floor, Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium India Gate,
New Delhi 110002

v. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) -
Regional Office,

Kendriya Bhawan, 5th Floor, Sector "H", Aliganj, Lucknow -
226020

14. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit 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.

15. List on 17.09.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

May 13, 2025
O.A. No. 234/2024
HB..

Annexure II

WATER QUALITY DATA OF RIVER GOMTI MONITORED DURING 2024

S.No.	Station Code	Name Of Monitoring Location	Name Of Water Body	District	State Name	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)		pH		BOD (mg/L)		Fecal Coliform (MPN/100ml)		Status
						Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	
Primary Water Quality for Outdoor Bathing notified under the E(P) Rules, 1986						>5 mg/L		6.5-8.5		<3mg/L		<2500 MPN/ 100 ml		
1	10089	RIVER GOMTI AT MOHMEAKU/S	GOMTI	LUCKNOW	UTTAR PRADESH	2.5	4.3	7.47	7.91	7	9.8	400	700	Non Complying
2	10090	RIVER GOMTI AT MOHMEAKD/S	GOMTI	LUCKNOW	UTTAR PRADESH	2.2	3.7	7.42	7.83	7.5	10.6	450	790	Non Complying
3	1351	RIVER GOMTI AT LUCKNOW U/S AT WATER INTAKE POINT, U.P.	GOMTI	LUCKNOW	UTTAR PRADESH	4.4	10.1	7.56	8.23	2.9	4	230	460	Non Complying
4	1352	RIVER GOMTI AT LUCKNOW D/S PIPRA GHA	GOMTI	LUCKNOW	UTTAR PRADESH	1.3	2.2	7.25	7.65	10.2	13.6	780	1300	Non Complying

		T, U. P.												
5	100 87	RIVE R GO MTI AT G AUG HAT U/S	GO MTI	LU CK NO W	UTT AR PRA DES H	4.5	10.1	7.54	8.22	2.9	4	230 0	490 0	Non Complying
6	100 88	RIVE R GO MTI AT G AUG HAT D/S	GO MTI	LU CK NO W	UTT AR PRA DES H	4.2	9.8	7.53	8.2	3	4.1	240 0	490 0	Non Complying
7	100 91	RIVE R GO MTI AT PI PRA GHA T U/S	GO MTI	LU CK NO W	UTT AR PRA DES H	1.5	2.6	7.28	7.71	9.6	13	680 00	110 000	Non Complying
8	100 92	RIVE R GO MTI AT PI PRA GHA T D/S	GO MTI	LU CK NO W	UTT AR PRA DES H	1.2	2.1	7.26	7.64	10. 2	13. 6	780 00	130 000	Non Complying

Annexure III

Polluted River Stretches- State wise - Priority wise (2018)						
ANDHRA PRADESH				2	3	5
ASSAM	3	1	4	3	33	44
BIHAR			1		5	6
CHHATTISGARH				4	1	5
DAMAN, DIU AND DADRA NAGAR HAVELI	1					1
DELHI	1					1
GOA			1	2	8	11
GUJARAT	5	1	2	6	6	20
HARYANA	2					2
HIMACHAL PRADESH	1	1	1		4	7
JAMMU & KASHMIR		1	2	2	4	9
JHARKHAND				3	4	7
KARNATAKA			4	7	6	17
KERALA	1			5	15	21
MADHYA PRADESH	3	1	1	3	14	22
MAHARASHTRA	9	6	14	10	14	53
MANIPUR		1			8	9
MEGHALAYA	2			3	2	7
MIZORAM			1	3	5	9
NAGALAND	1		1	2	2	6
ODISHA	1		3	2	13	19
PUDUCHERRY				1	1	2
PUNJAB	2			1	1	4
RAJASTHAN			1		1	2
SIKKIM					4	4
TAMIL NADU	4			1	1	6
TELANGANA	1	2	2	2	1	8
TRIPURA					6	6
UTTAR PRADESH	4		1	2	5	12
UTTARAKHAND	3	1	1	4		9
WEST BENGAL	1	1	3	4	8	17
Grand Total	45	16	43	72	175	351

Polluted River Stretches- State wise - Priority wise (2022)						
ANDHRA PRADESH	1	-	-	1	1	3
ASSAM	1	-	-	-	9	10
BIHAR	-	1	2	7	8	18
CHHATTISGARH	-	1	-	2	3	6
DAMAN, DIU AND DADRA NAGAR HAVELI	-	-	1	-	-	1
DELHI	1	-	-	-	-	1
GOA	-	-	-	1	5	6
GUJARAT	6	1	1	1	4	13
HARYANA	2	1	-	-	-	3
HIMACHAL PRADESH	4	-	-	1	4	9
JAMMU & KASHMIR	-	-	2	4	2	8
JHARKHAND	-	-	1	2	6	9
KARNATAKA	3	-	-	3	11	17
KERALA	-	-	1	2	15	18
MADHYA PRADESH	2	-	1	5	11	19
MAHARASHTRA	4	5	18	17	11	55
MANIPUR	-	-	-	2	11	13
MEGHALAYA	2	-	-	1	4	7
MIZORAM	-	-	-	2	1	3
NAGALAND	-	-	1	-	3	4
ODISHA	1	-	-	3	3	7
PUDUCHERRY	-	1	1	1	-	3
PUNJAB	3	-	-	-	2	5
RAJASTHAN	2	-	1	4	7	14
SIKKIM						
TAMIL NADU	4	1	1	1	3	10
TELANGANA	1	1	2	-	5	9
TRIPURA	-	-	-	-	1	1
UTTAR PRADESH	6	-	1	2	8	17
UTTARAKHAND	2	2	4	-	1	9
WEST BENGAL	1	2	1	3	6	13
Grand Total	46	16	39	65	145	311