

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

Original Application No.1229 of 2024

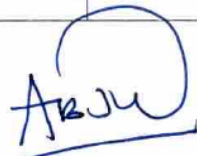
In Re: "News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report" appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

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Date: **03.07.2026**

Place: **CHANDIGARH**


(Ajit Balaji Joshi) I.A.S
Administrative Secretary, Govt of
Punjab
Rural Development and Panchayat
Department

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

Original Application No.1229 of 2024

In Re: News Item titled "Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024.

Status report by way of affidavit of Ajit Balaji Joshi, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayats Department, Punjab on behalf of respondent no.5 in compliance to order dated 18.03.2026.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

Respectfully showeth:

- 1) That the above-mentioned Original Application was registered by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in exercise of its suo moto powers on the basis of News Item titled Over 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals govt. report appearing in the Tribune dated 16.09.2024. The respondent Punjab Pollution Control Board had filed replies / status reports in the case on the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal from time to time. The case is pending before this Hon'ble Tribunal for adjudication.
- 2) That the Punjab Pollution Control Board has earlier filed status report dated 17.03.2026 disclosing that there are 1574 identified pollution sources and out of these as per PPCB data 996 Pollution sources belongs to Rural Areas. However, As per the latest report of the Central Pollution Control Board (September 2025) there are only 02 Priorities of polluted river stretches in Punjab namely (1) Ghaggar (Mubarkpur to Sardulgarh) and (2) Satluj (Ludhiana to Harike). As per the directions of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India issued vide D.O. Letter dated 07.03.2025 regarding up-dation of Action Plans, the Action

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Plan of River Satluj and Ghaggar were prepared by the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Punjab with the inputs of the stakeholder departments and agencies. Out of these 996 Pollution Sources 800 Pollution Sources which belongs to Rural Development and Panchayat Department are of Rivers Ghaggar, Satluj and Beas. As per the Latest status with Rural Development and Panchayat department, out of 800 Pollution Sources Total of 375 have been either treated or Plugged.

- 3) In this way 425 number Pollution Sources are still in existence. Considering the status report filed by the PPCB, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 18.03.2026 thereby directing the concerned respondent to clarify as to how the liquid waste will be treated in the ponds. It was also mentioned in the order dated 18.03.2026 that the State authorities are required to take action for stopping the discharge of untreated liquid and solid waste in the water bodies including storm water drains by having a proper plan for management of the said waste but that has not been disclosed in the report. This is further clarified that Department of Rural Development and Panchayats have already prepared the Action plan for Rivers Ghaggar and Satluj under intimation to PPCB. These Plans are stand approved by the Competent Authorities.
- 4) That in the above background of the case, the Principal Secretary Rural Development and Panchayats Punjab is impleaded as Respondent No. 5 in the Above Case and was granted time to file a fresh report vide order dated 18.03.2026. The present status report is being filed by the Deponent/respondent No. 5 in compliance to order dated 18.03.2026. The report may kindly be read in the following paragraphs.
- 5) That in compliance to order dated 18.03.2026, the Punjab Pollution Control Board has written letter no.8312-13 dated 30.04.2026 to the Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats apprising about the orders dated 18.03.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal and a copy of the letter was endorsed to all the Environmental Engineers of Regional Offices of the Board for sending the report in accordance with the mandate of the order dated 18.03.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal. A copy

of letter no. 8312-13 endorsement no. 8314, 8315-16 dated 30.04.2026 is enclosed as **Annexure R-5/A**.

- 6) That the detailed information with regard to the closure/treatment of sources of village waste water and the manner in which the treated wastewater of the sources which have been plugged is utilized has also been prepared district wise.
- 7) District wise information of closed water pollution sources relating to village. That the case has been further examined by the Board and it is observed that the case in its larger aspect relates to the pollution of water bodies in the State of Punjab. In this regard, it is submitted that As per the latest report of the Central Pollution Control Board (September 2025) there are only 02 Priorities of polluted river stretches in Punjab namely (1) Ghaggar (Mubarkpur to Sardulgarh) and (2) Satluj (Ludhiana to Harike). As per the directions of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India issued vide D.O. Letter dated 07.03.2025 regarding updation of Action Plans, the Action Plans of River Satluj and Ghaggar were prepared by the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Punjab with the inputs of the stakeholder departments and agencies.
- 8) That the updated action plans of river Satluj and Ghaggar were approved by the River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) in its meeting held on 28.10.2025 which were further approved by the State Apex Committee (SAC) in its meeting held on 12.01.2026 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Punjab. The updated Action Plans of River Ghaggar and Sutlej have been submitted to the Project Director, National River Conservation Directorate, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India vide letter no. DECC/2026/1123 dated 21.01.2026 by the Government of Punjab, Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change and to the Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, New Delhi vide letter endorsement no. DECC/2026/1124-1126 dated 21.01.2026. A copy of letter no. DECC/2026/1123, endorsement no. DECC/2026/1124-1126 dated 21.01.2026. R
- 9) That the sources of water pollution in river Ghaggar and Satluj have duly identified and the same were included in the updated action plans for removal.

The brief facts in this regard (as incorporated in the updated Action Plans) are mentioned and described in the following paragraphs.

A. Sources of water pollution in river Ghaggar

I. Major Drains

- i. There are 13 major drains/ choes/ nallahs which are directly discharging into the river Ghaggar. There are 29 creeks which are discharging into 13 major drains. Further, 388 villages are discharging 99.43 MLD waste water directly/indirectly in the river Ghaggar.

II. Sewage/ sullage generated from Rural Areas

- ii. There are 389 villages, which are discharging 99.43 MLD waste water through various creeks and drains into Ghaggar. In order to install necessary treatment facilities to treat the wastewater of rural areas, 389 villages have been prioritized into following phases:

Phase 1: 98 Villages having total discharge of 31.60 MLD

Phase 2: 203 Villages having total discharge of 43.62 MLD

Phase 3: 87 Villages having total discharge of 24.20 MLD

NGT Phase Wise Status Ghaggar upto 31.05.2026					
Sr.No.	Phase	Total no. of Villages	Complete Works	Ongoing	Not started
1	Phase-1	98	91	2	5
2	Phase-2	203	90	19	94
3	Phase-3	87	40	6	41
	Total	388	221	27	140

B. Sources of water pollution in River Satluj

I. Major Drains

- i. There are 30 major drains/ choes/ nallahs, which are directly discharging into the river Sutlej. Apart from this, there are 84 sub drains, which are meeting with above 30 major drains.

II. Sewage/ sullage generated from Rural Areas

- ii. There are 336 villages, which are discharging their wastewater either directly or indirectly through various drains / nallahs/ creeks. Out of 336 villages, the work for rejuvenation of ponds was completed in 139 villages, ongoing in 29 villages and yet to start 168 villages. Table as Below for Progress of the village Ponds:-

NGT Phase Wise Satluj Status upto 31.05.2026					
Sr.No.	Phase	Total no. of Villages	Complete Works	Ongoing	Not started
1	Phase-1	60	60	0	0
2	Phase-2	106	64	17	25
3	Phase-3	170	15	12	143
	Total	336	139	29	168

NGT Phase Wise Beas Status upto 31.05.2026					
Sr.No.	Phase	Total no. of Villages	Complete Works	Ongoing	Not started
1	Phase-1	9	9	0	0
2	Phase-2	8	3	0	5
3	Phase-3	59	3	1	55
	Total	76	15	1	60

As per the State Report available with this Department up to 31.05.2026, out of the total 800 identified pollution sources pertaining to the Ghaggar, Sutlej and Beas Rivers, the treatment of village ponds in 375 villages has been completed. Further, 57 works are under progress, whereas 368 works could not be commenced due to the non-availability of funds or other administrative reasons **(Annexure R-5/B)**.

It is also pertinent to mention that if the remaining village ponds are to be treated through the Thapar Model Method, which is presently being adopted by the Department, an estimated amount of approximately ₹140.00 crore will be required for completion of these works.

Date:

Place:

Deponent

(Ajit Balaji Joshi) I.A.S

Administrative Secretary,

Govt of Punjab

Rural Development and Panchayat
Department

VERIFICATION:

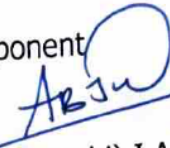
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I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge as derived from the official record. No part of the above affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Date: **03.07.2026**

Place: Chandigarh

Deponent



(Ajit Balaji Joshi) I.A.S
Administrative Secretary, Govt of
Punjab
Rural Development and Panchayat
Department

03/07/2026



Annexure R-1/A

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ਪੰਜਾਬ ਪ੍ਰਦੂਸ਼ਣ ਕੰਟਰੋਲ ਬੋਰਡ
PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

Dated. 30/4/26

No. 83.12-13

To

- 1) The Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Science, Technology and Environment,
Chandigarh.
- 2) The Principal Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Rural Development & Panchayats,
Chandigarh.

Subject: Order dated 18.03.2026 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in
Original Application no. 1229 of 2024 -compliance thereof.

Please refer to the subject cited above.

2) The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in exercise of Suo Moto powers has taken cognizance of a news item titled – about 1200 sources polluting water bodies in Punjab reveals Govt. report” appearing in the Tribunal dated 16.09.2024 and registered the same as O.A. No. 1229 of 2024.

3) The news item relates to a government report that identifies over 1200 sources of pollution effecting the water bodies in the Punjab. It is asserted that pollution is not just an environmental issue it poses significant risk to public health, affecting drinking water supplies and increasing the risk of water borne diseases.

4) The Punjab Pollution Control Board after gathering information from the concerned departments has filed interim report on 12.05.2025 and status report on 17.03.2026 before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal. The summarized status is tabulated below:

S. No.	Description of information of pollution sources	Industrial	Village Waste Water	Urban Local Body outlets	Dairy Waste	Individual	Any Other	Total
1	Total number of polluting sources	39	996	231	243	14	51	1574
2	Number of pollution	39	272	128	236	14	49	738

ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਭਵਨ, ਨਾਭਾ ਰੋਡ, ਪਟਿਆਲਾ-147001

Vatavaran Bhawan, Nabha Road, Patiala -147001

Phone : Chairman. : 0175-2215793, Member Secretary : 0175-2215802 (O)

Website : www.ppcb.gov.in | E-Mail : chairmanppcb@yahoo.in | msppcb@gmail.com |

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	sources closed								
3	Number of pollution sources in operation.	00	724	103	07	00	02	836	

5) After consideration of the matter, it is observed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal that the perusal of Annexure-A and B shows that most of the affected water bodies are mostly storm water drains and if sources of their pollution have been plugged then in what manner the sewage, industrial effluent or other liquid waste which was being discharged through those sources, is being treated or utilized. This has not been disclosed in the report.

The last column of annexure-B mentions that there is a proposal to construct the ponds for discharge of liquid waste. The concerned respondent is required to clarify as to how liquid waste will be treated in those ponds. The State authorities are required to take action for stopping the discharge of untreated liquid and solid waste in the water bodies including storm water drains by having a proper plan for management of the said waste but that has not been disclosed in this report.

6) Considering the nature of issue involved in the matter, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal has passed an order dated 18.03.2026 thereby impleading the Principal Secretary, Environment, State of Punjab as respondent no.4 and Principal Secretary, Rural Development, State of Punjab as Respondent no.5 in the case with direction to look into the matter file their response. The Punjab Pollution Control Board has also been directed to file a fresh report.

7) It is, therefore, requested that the instructions may please be issued to the concerned officers to make compliance of the orders dated 18.03.2026 of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal passed in Original Application no. 1229 of 2024. A copy of order dated 18.03.2026 is enclosed for kind perusal.


Member Secretary
o/c

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PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



Endst. No. 8314

Dated 30/4/26

A copy of the above is forwarded to all the Environmental Engineer of Regional Offices of the Board for information and necessary action and for sending the requisite report in accordance with the mandate of order dated 18.03.2026 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 1229 of 2024 to the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Barnala within one week.

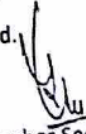

Member Secretary
o/c

Dated 30/4/26

Endst. No. 8315-16

A copy of the above alongwith copy of order dated 18.03.2026 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Original Application No. 1229 of 2024 is forwarded to the following for information and ensuring timely action.

- 1) All the Chief Environmental Engineers, Punjab Pollution Control Board,
- 2) All the Senior Environmental Engineers, Punjab Pollution Control Board.


Member Secretary
o/c

E-office-255620

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NGT Phase wise Status upto 31.05.26		(Annexure R-5/B)			
Sr.No.	Phase	Total Nos of Viilages	Completed	Ongoing	Not Started
1	Phase-1	167	160	2	5
2	Phase-2	317	157	36	124
3	Phase-3	316	58	19	239
	Total	800	375	57	368



Superintending Engineer
Panchayati Raj Public Works Circle
Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar.