



भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India)

परियोजना कार्यान्वयन इकाई, चण्डीगढ़ - बेज नम्बर 35-38, सेक्टर-4, पंचकुला ।

Project Implementation Unit, Chandigarh - Bays No. 35-38, Sector-4, Panchkula.

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NHAI/PIU/CHD/11188/PG/608

Dated: 25th April 2023

To

Sh. Akhil Goel

Sector-20, Panchkula

Sub: Your Grievance bearing No. MORTII/F/2023/0005037 on PG Portal

Sir,

Please take cognizance of your grievance dated 14.04.2023 received in this office on 18.04.2023 through PG Portal, which was forwarded to the concerned AF/Contractor of the project highway for comments.

2. As per feedback received vide mail dated 25.04.2023, it is informed that Yamunanagar-Panchkula Section of NH-73 (Package-III) was constructed as per provision of Contract Agreement, which was completed and open to public in the year 2020 and is under Defect Liability Period (DLP) upto February 2024. It has been reported that few people throw material in the river bed from the bridge and action for restraining such activity needs to be taken by the State Government/Local Administration.

3. This is for your information please.

Yours faithfully,

(Pardeep Atri)

GM (Tech)-cum-Project Director
NHAI, PIU Chandigarh

Heroics & luck on Ghaggar: Car swept, woman rescued

Nitin Sharma

Passersby Risk Lives To Save Her

Arvind.Bishnoi
@timesgroup.com

Panchkula: A 61-year-old woman was saved from drowning in a rising Ghaggar river on Sunday morning, thanks to a timely rescue by at least 10 men who risked their own lives to pull her out of the car. The woman's luck too played a crucial role, as her car — which was swept away by the river — got stuck after floating in the water for over 100 metres.

The Panchkula district administration, like every year, has this time also issued a warning against going close to the river. At 8.30am, however, Mansa Devi Complex resident Sangeeta drove her car dangerously close to the river, because she wanted to immerse some articles in it as part of her religious beliefs.

Sangeeta had taken the car off road near the Sector 2-North Park bridge which is close to Gurdwara Nada Sahib. She had then parked it on the banks of the river, 50 metres from the bridge. When she was throwing the articles from the driver's seat, the water rose and the car was swept away. At first, it seemed the car would be swept away. But, after it crossed the bridge, the vehicle got stuck in the steps which have been made to keep the water clean.

When the car had started to float, people had asked the woman to jump off, but she could not out of fear. When the car was stuck near the bridge and the water kept rising, a group of at least 10 men, mostly auto-rickshaw drivers and migrant workers, arranged a rope, made a human chain, and jumped into the water. After half an hour, the men brought her out.

Police and paramedics were rushed to the spot and the victim was then taken to Civil Hospital in Sector 6, where Sangeeta was given treatment.



The car stuck on the steps built on the Ghaggar near North Park; and (right) the daring rescue by civilians

TRAGEDIES

- **July 31, 2022** | Boy (17) drowns in Ghaggar while crossing it in Morni to reach other side
- **June 9, 2018** | A girl (7) drowns in river while taking a bath
- **Sept 20, 2017** | Two kids drown while bathing in the Ghaggar as a part of a religious ritual
- **July 20, 2016** | Four teenagers drown while swimming in river

WARNINGS IGNORED

Steps have been taken by the Panchkula administration to stop people from entering the Ghaggar. The administration has installed boards mentioning danger zones near the river, but people can be seen ignoring these.

ORDER ON PAPER, NO ACTION

Panchkula police and administration impose Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code every year during monsoon near Ghaggar, but no action has been taken against any violator all these years. If one goes by the book, a person who violates Section 144 of CrPC could be charged with Section 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of IPC.

Videos of the daring rescue have since gone viral. Police later cleared the bridge and a crane was called to take out the car from the water, but it could not be taken out as the water level was high till the evening. The SHO of Chandimandir police station, inspector Lalit Kumar, said Sangeeta was home by the evening. "We are waiting for the water level

to fall. We will take out the car after that. An investigation is underway," he said.

It was not clear if police would be taking any action against the woman. When this report was filed in the evening, the car was still stuck. Passersby on the busy road could be seen stopping to take a look at the ill-fated car, causing traffic problems.

Hours later, 8 of family saved

Panchkula: Just hours after a woman was rescued from her ill-fated car which was swept away in the Ghaggar river on Sunday, eight persons — including two women, one child and five men — of a family were stuck in the Ghaggar when they were crossing it in the afternoon. The water of the river rose suddenly when the family was crossing it near Sector 27 here.

A joint team of the NDRF and police rushed to the spot and rescued the victims. Police said the family were musroomed on a small piece of land on the river, when passersby spotted them. The rescue team then reached the spot near the Punjab-Haryana border. The SHO of Chandimandir police station, inspector Lalit Kumar, said all rescued people had been working as daily-wagers in Panchkula and would use the Ghaggar to shorten their travelling time. **TNN**

To,

Regional Officer,
Regional Office, Panchkula Region,
Haryana State Pollution Control Board,
1st Floor, SCO115-116, Sector 25, Panchkula, HR
Email: hspcbropkl@gmail.com
&
HSVP/ Distt. Administration Panchkula/ Municipal Corporation Panchkula/ Irrigation
Deptt. (through HSPCB)

Ref: 1) NGT Matter OA 610/2022 Meenu Devi Vs. State of Haryana
2) Your office Letter No. HSPCB/PKL/2022/1554-58 dt. 30.12.2022
3) Meeting of office bearers of HSPCB, HSVP, Panchkula Distt. Admin, Irrigation for Site
survey at Ghaggar River.

Subject: Suggestions of citizens to curb the manace of religious offerings, garbage
disposal by general public from Sec.21 – Sec.23 Ghaggar Bridge overhead
throwing.

Sir/Ma'am,

Pursuant the Ghaggar bridge site visit at 1100hrs 03.01.2022 by the representatives of HSPCB, HSVP, Panchkula Distt. Administration (represented by SDM Panchkula), Irrigation Deptt. and local citizens, it was agreed by the office bearers that public malpractice is genuinely damaging the delicate ecological system and slowly transforming the pious river into a drain. It was brought to fore that Panchkula is one of selected cities in India/World where a river flows right between the city heartland and hence it is obligation of administration to preserve this natural resource from degrading human activities. Furthermore, it is a matter of apathy that Haryana State govt. is spending crores to rejuvenate an extinct river Saraswati whereas a living river in backyard of its capital city is dying due to brazen neglect and willful administrative defiance to prevailing public malpractices. On the call of executive authorities, Below enumerated proposals are submitted to preserve the ecosystem:

- 1) Chain link fencing of Sector 21-23 bridge to stop overhead throwing of religious offerings and garbage in river stream by public.

- 2) Chain link fencing of river banks in residential areas from Sec. 22/Majri Chowk to Sector28/ PirMuchchala) to stop dumping of construction debris in river bed by dumper trucks/tractors.
- 3) Placement of Police Post and police personnel with challaning powers to penalize people stopping vehicles on the bridge to throw offerings in river stream which results in traffic jams and accidents sometime.
- 4) Provisioning of another parallel 02 lane bridge to ease traffic flow of area.
- 5) Beautification of erstwhile garbage dump site opposite river bridge (Sector 23 side) by putting sand layers and plantation activities thereupon.
- 6) Shifting of temporary veterinary hospital in immediate river basin to alternate suitable location.
- 7) Cleaning of river bed for removal of plastics/cloths/polythene bags underneath the bridge.

It is germane to mention here that a district in southern Haryana has taken initiative to penalize people throwing religious offering in canals under Canal & Drainage Act (copy enclosed). Hon'ble high courts of Several States have recognized the menace of River Pollutions with instructions to state govt. to immediately mobilize the administrative machinery to ensure earliest possible remedial actions viz. hon'ble Uttrakhand High Court has granted legal rights of living person to Ganga and Yamuna [*WPPIL 126 of 2014, Mohd. Salim Vs State of Uttrakhand*] and hon'ble Punjab & Haryana Highcourt had granted same legal rights to Sukhna Lake instructing State Govts. to immediately stop the pollution in its tributary rivers [*CWP 18253-2009, Court on its own motion Vs. Chandigarh Administration*]. Chhat Puja and Ganesh Chaturthi festivals wreak havoc on river every year. The deity idols takes months to dissolve and unleashes traffic woes on residents. The sightseeing hutments made by HSVP along eastern bank of river are being used by public for deceitful purpose. Hence, it must be ensured that :

- 8) Heavy penalties must be imposed on those littering religious offerings/garbage in river stream.
- 9) Only dissolvable Religious offerings should allowed that too from Chhat Puja ghat constructed by district administration after payment Rs. 100 or any other fee as deemed suitable and all cloths, plastic, polythene bags should be properly disposed/captured by dustbins or installation of wiremesh flowtraps which should be periodically cleaned by Municipal Corporation. Ghat parking should only be used by devotees to park their vehicles.

Proper implementation of Law has shaped the human society since centuries be it abolition of nefarious customs of Sati Pratha, Dehej Pratha, Widow remarriage, Child marriage etc. etc. Adoption of similar approach in preserving the natural resources are need of hour to change public perception. Hence, The rivers should be granted their due rights and perpetrators must be tried with course of law. Furthermore:

- 10) Periodical awareness campaigns by district administration for general public by means of newspaper messages, posters to refrain from the littering practices in river.
- 11) Placement of Police signage for imposition of penalties would definitely serve as deterrent.

Humbly submitted to grace your indulgence for implementation please.

Thanking You,

MEENU DEVI through her AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE
on account of her leave to her hometown,

Sukhvinder
04/01/2023
(SUKHVINDER)

SPOUSE OF COMPLAINANT,
HN.71, Sector 23, Panchkula, HR
+91 9464 990253

Encl: As above incl. Pictorial evidences of littering

Copy to: NGT Matter OA 610/2022 Meenu Devi Vs. State of Haryana

Local Citizens who echoed similar concerns:

- 1) Sh. Rajul Sharma, #72/23, PKL (HR), 94642 24226
- 2) Ms. Tapsya, #1082/4, PKL (HR), 98884 80025
- 3) Sh. Hardeep Jaglan, #145/23, PKL(HR), 98884 10602

Diariest
Haryana State Pollution Control Board
SCO 106, 1st and 2nd Floor, Sector- 25,
Panchkula
04/01/23



People throwing away religious offering over the bridge in broad daylight and giving threatening glance when objected.



Parked vehicles of devotees lines up to throw offerings in River stream in broad daylight





An adamant devotee on a fine day fighting when objected.



High Society highly educated illiterate adamant devotee (Pic-2)



Traffic JAM due to Parked SUV on bridge in broad day light



River Bridge on the day after Dusshera (05.10.2022)



Traffic Jam due to vehicle parked on bridge by people throwing religious offerings from the bridge in Ghaggar river.



Cattle eating thrown away polythene bags.