

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

Original Application No. 859/2022
(I.A. Nos. 445/2024, 632/2023 & 769/2023)

Abhisht Kusum Gupta

Applicant

Versus

State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.

Respondents

With

Original Application No. 512/2024

News Item titled “Irrigation Deptt. files case against Noida villagers for dumping waste in Hindon” appearing in The Hindustan Times dated 12.03.2024

Date of hearing: 09.12.2025

**CORAM: HON’BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
HON’BLE DR. A. SENTHIL VEL, EXPERT MEMBER**

Applicant: Mr. Sunil J. Mathews, Ms. Jyoti Chib & Mr. Samanwaya Rautray, Advs. for Applicant in OA 859/2022

Respondents: Mr. Bhanwar Pal Singh Jadon, Ms. Gargi Chaturvedi, Ms. Anjali Sharma & Ms. Disha Sharma, Advs. for the State of UP & UPPCB
Mr. Malak Bhatt, Adv. for Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation (Through VC)
Mr. Atif Suhrawardy, Adv. for CPCB in OA 512/2024 (Through VC)
Ms. Shreyasi Kunwar, Adv. for Respondent No. 17 (Through VC)

ORDER

1. By this Original Application (OA), Tribunal is considering the issue of pollution of river Hindon by discharge of industrial effluents and untreated sewage and failure of authorities to prevent the pollution therein.
2. When the matter was taken up on 24.01.2025, Tribunal had considered the affidavit of Chief Secretary, State of UP dated 30.10.2024

and had also noted the 07 drains which were outfalling in river Hindon and thereafter observed as under:

- “4. The CPCB along with its report dated 09.07.2024 filed in connected OA No. 512/2024 which relates to the dumping of waste in Hindon River, has enclosed the action plan titled "Pollution Source Mapping of River Hindon and its Tributaries and Restoration Plan for Polluted Stretches", which was prepared in August 2023. Learned Counsel for CPCB has informed that the said action plan was forwarded to the State of UP in the year 2023 itself. There is no disclosure about the timebound implementation of the said action plan. This action plan discloses the status of 55 drains joining rivers Krishni, Kali West and Hindon, installed and utilised capacity of STPs, the performance of STPs, the status of industrial pollution control and the water quality of river Hindon and its tributaries. It has been disclosed in the report of CPCB that the rivers are anoxic, carrying high BOD and fecal coliform and not fit for bathing therefore, CPCB has proposed UP State to execute the action plan.*
 - 5. Learned Counsel for the State of UP submits that now a fresh affidavit of Chief Secretary, State of UP will be filed keeping in view the observations made above and also disclosing the timebound schedule for completing the action in pursuance to the action plan submitted by the CPCB. He submits that this affidavit will be filed within six weeks. He has submitted that for implementation of the action plan, prepared by the CPCB, Chief Secretary has already issued instructions to the concerned authorities on 06.11.2023.*
 - 6. Learned Counsel for CPCB also submits that though the STPs have been constructed, there is an issue relating to household connectivity with the STPs and unless the same is done, the capacity of the STP cannot be utilized to the fullest and the discharge of untreated sewage to the water channels will continue.*
 - 7. The Chief Secretary of State of UP will also respond to the above observation of the CPCB.”*
3. In terms of the above directions, Chief Secretary, State of UP has filed the fresh affidavit dated 10.09.2025 disclosing the status as follows:-

“COLLECTION AND PROCESSING OF THE C&D WASTE:

- 4. That it is submitted that, in Noida, the Noida Authority is lifting and processing C&D waste from various sectors in alignment with the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016.*
 - i. Sector 72: A total of 18,91,530 kg of C&D waste has been lifted and claimed, with 80 trips made to the designated collection centre. The collected C&D waste is being treated at Sector 80 C&D Plant wherein the Plant capacity is of 400 TPD.*
 - ii. Sector 64: A total of 19,19,160 kg of C&D waste has been lifted and claimed, with 90 trips recorded. The collected C&D waste is being treated at Sector 80 C&D Plant wherein the Plant capacity is of 400 TPD.*

*A copy of the logs of transportation is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE-1.***

5. That furthermore, Noida Authority's initiative in adopting wet processing technology using STP water and producing value-added products such as paver blocks, interlocking tiles and manufactured sand. The operational capacity of the Sector-80 processing plant is 400 TPD and the average daily processing rate of 384 TPD over the last six months reflect a strong commitment to sustainable waste management and also three complaints related to C&D waste lifting were raised through the Noida One App during the period from April 2025 to date. All three complaints were resolved within the defined Service Level Agreement (SLA), reflecting the Authority's responsiveness and commitment to timely grievance redressal. The copy of the report of Noida Authority is annexed and marked as ANNEXURE-2.

STPs AND HOUSEHOLD CONNECTIONS

6. That it is also significant to mention here that as per the latest information provided by the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Urban), GoUP, total sewage generation in Hindon river basin is 943.63 MLD. For the treatment of sewage, 20 STPs with a total treatment capacity of 953.5 MLD are installed out of which currently utilized capacity is 658.2 MLD. Hence, to bridge the gap of 285.43 MLD, 07 STPs of total capacity of 283 MLD are proposed and also works related to laying of sewer-line and household connections are in progress. After completion of projects, total capacity of 1236.5 MLD will be available by March, 2027.

* The brief of Sewage Generation, Gap and Proposed Actions are given below:

Sewage Generation, Gap and Proposed Action

District	Sewage Generation (MLD)	STP Installed			Gap (MLD)	STP Under Construction/ Under Tendering	Timeline
		Number	Installed Capacity (MLD)	Utilized Capacity (MLD)			
Saharanpur	137.89	01	38	38	99.89	1. Saharanpur STP (135 MLD) 2. Deoband STP (20 MLD)	March 2027
Ghaziabad	480	10	531.5	381	99	STP: 68 MLD	STP will be mde operational by December, 2025 (excluding trial run)
Baghpat	0.10	0	0	-	0.10	-	-
Meerut	10	0	0	-	10	-	-
Shamli	33.50	0	0	-	33.50	Shamli STP (40 MLD) Babri STP (05 MLD) Banat STP (05 MLD) Thana Bhawan STP (10 MLD)	13.04.2026
Gautam Buddh Nagar	171	05	287	149	22	-	-

District	Sewage Generation (MLD)	STP Installed			Gap (MLD)	STP Under Construction/ Under Tendering	Timeline
		Number	Installed Capacity (MLD)	Utilized Capacity (MLD)			
Muzaffarnagar	111.14 including 34.45 MLD industrial discharge	04	97	90.2	20.94	-	-
Total	943.63	20	953.5	658.2	285.43	07 STP (283 MLD)	-

7.
That, as per the information furnished by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), the quality of the treated sewage effluent discharged from the STPs is being regularly monitored by the UPPCB.
A copy of the analysis report for the month of July, 2025 is annexed herewith and marked as **ANNEXURE- 3**.
8.
That it is stated that works related to laying of sewer-line and household connections are still in progress, therefore the full designed capacity of STPs have not been fully utilized. Moreover, after establishment of household connections, the discharge reaching to STPs would be minimized as presently it is mixed with storm water/ grey water in the drains.
The current status of laying of sewer line and household connections under various schemes are given below:

Nagar Nigam/ Nagar Palika	Total Length of Sewer Line already laid (km)	Number of Households already connected	Future Plan and Details of Project	Progress Status
Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam	2,338	3,46,460	Ghaziabad Sewerage Scheme (Karheda Zone) under AMRUT 2.0 Cost of Project: 546.94 cr. Proposed Works: - STP: 68 MLD - Sewer Network- 145 km - Sewer House Connection: 67,669 - IPS: 05 Nos. (101.95 MLD) - MPS: 01 No. (72.17 MLD) - Sewer Network with House connections – 135 km	Current physical progress of the project is 50% and is scheduled to be completed by 08.06.2026

Nagar Nigam/ Nagar Palika	Total Length of Sewer Line already laid (km)	Number of Households already connected	Future Plan and Details of Project	Progress Status
Nagar Palika Parishad Loni	-	-	Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) for 100% sewerage coverage in Nagar Palika Parishad, Loni has been submitted to control untreated domestic sewerage into Yamuna river through Indirapuri & Banthla drain by Sahadra Drain. Works proposed in the CWAP: 1. STP- 136 MLD 2. Sewer Network-970 km 3. House Connections- 1,11,339	-
Nagar Nigam Meerut	754	96,619	I&D of Drains and STP Works in Meerut City Cost of Project: 690.71 cr. Proposed Works: 1. STP: 220 MLD 2. I&D works: 02 Nos. 3. Effluent Line and Channel: 6545 m	Current physical progress of the project is 25% and is scheduled to be completed by 10.02.2027
Nagar Nigam Saharanpur	244.42	41,569	-	-
Nagar Palika Parishad Muzaffarnagar	65	7,700	-	-
Nagar Palika Parishad Shamli	-	-	-	-
Total	3,401.42	4,92,348		

ACTIONS TAKEN AGAINST NON-COMPLYING INDUSTRIAL UNITS

9. That it is submitted here that, as per the information provided by Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board, there are total 391 industries identified in Hindon river basin. Out of 391 industries, 21 units are dismantled. Out of rest 370 units, 84 units are either Non-Operational or Closed (Self Closed or Closed by Board) including 26 Closure Orders issued by UPPCB. Within remaining 286 operational units, 273 units are complying and 13 units have been found non-complying against which Show Cause Notices have been issued. Further, it is stated that, Environmental Compensation (EC) of Rs. 166.71lakhs has been imposed against 53 defaulter units out of which Rs. 97.19lakhs have been recovered. It is also submitted that, prosecutions have been instituted against 77 defaulting units in Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur and Meerut District and also against ULBs and other concerned authorities.

IMPLEMENTATION/ COMPLIANCE TO THE ACTION PLAN GIVEN BY THE CPCB

10. That it is humbly submitted that the Action Plan of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also identifies that the solid waste is choking various drains

falling in the river Hindon and its tributaries and recommends immediate actions to clear it. It is submitted that, the Urban Local Bodies have informed that the identified drains are being cleaned periodically and on quarterly basis by removing the solid waste in their respective jurisdictions. The Solid waste collected during the cleaning is being lifted and transferred to the Solid Waste Processing Plants/ Dumpsites.

The photographs of the cleaning being carried out is annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE- 4.

11. *That it is submitted that Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) regularly monitors the water quality of the Hindon River and its tributaries, including the River Kali (West) and Krishna. Samples are collected during routine inspections by the UPPCB and sent to an accredited laboratory for analysis.*

The latest test reports are been collectively annexed and marked as ANNEXURE- 5.

12. *That it is also worthwhile to submit here that the Irrigation and Water Resources Department has informed that the Environmental flow in the Hindon River may not be possible as it is not a perennial river. However, the flow of Hindon River may be restored through a long term strategy of rejuvenation of water bodies along it and extensive plantation in the catchment of the river.*

13. *That the plantation drive has been extensively carried out in the areas within 5 kilometres of the Hindon River from 2021-2022 to 2025-2026. As per the information received from the Forest Department, 11,40,913 saplings have been planted during the period mentioned above within 5 kilometres and 10,75,693 saplings have been survived with a Survival rate of 94.28%. The species which are planted are Sheesham, Arjun, Jamun, Bamboo, Chilbil, Sagon, Kanji, Pilkhan etc.*

A true copy of details of plantation mentioned above is annexed and marked as ANNEXURE- 6.

14. *That for action on various points mentioned in action plan prepared by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) titled "Pollution Source Mapping of River Hindon and its Tributaries and Restoration Plan for Polluted Stretches", directions have been issued to concerned District Magistrate/ Chairman, District Environment Committee (DEC) of Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Shamli, Meerut, Baghpat, Gautam Buddh Nagar and Ghaziabad districts for its implementation vide letters dated 24.10.2024.*

The copies of letter dated 24.10.2024 are annexed and marked as ANNEXURE- 7.

15. *That the compliance status including time bound actions on various points have been received from respective District Magistrate/ Chairman, District Environment Committee (DEC).*

The copies of report received from the DM and DEC are annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE – 8.

16. *That the Deponent assures this Hon'ble Tribunal that the effective implementation of the Action Plan shall be subject to periodic review by the Field Monitoring Committees chaired by the respective District Magistrates, and the same shall also be overseen and reviewed by the Deponent from time to time."*

4. A perusal of the above affidavit reveals that in the first table concerning sewage generation, gap and proposed action, though, in some of the districts such as Muzaffarnagar, the gap exists but no proposed STP

or plan to bridge the gap has been disclosed. Same is position in respect of Gautam Budh Nagar, Saharanpur and Shamli. Chart further discloses that there is a long timeline for completing the STPs for example for Saharanpur District, timeline is March 2027 and nothing has been disclosed for district Baghpat and Meerut. With respect to Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar, there is no disclosure on affirm timeline for bridging the gap. We also find that in the second chart given in paragraph no.8, details of existing household connection and proposed household connection have been disclosed but the status of unauthorized colonies and discharge of untreated sewage therefrom has not been disclosed. There is no mention on laying sewerage connectivity to the proposed STPs at Saharanpur and Shamli. Setting up of STPs and sewage conveyance system should be undertaken simultaneous for utilization of designed capacities of STPs. It also needs to be clarified if after creation of sewage network any untreated sewage will be discharged in the storm water drain. In respect of some of the ULB like Ghaziabad even after setting up of 68 MLD STP as against the gap of 99 MLD, the entire gap will not be bridged and untreated sewage will still remain, therefore, a plan is required to be disclosed under which there is 100% treatment of the sewage generated within the municipalities as any untreated sewage may find its way to river Hindon.

5. We also find that the Hindon Basin having natural storm water drains must be carrying sewage and trade effluents joining Hindon and its tributaries. We, therefore, direct to disclose on number of drains joining rivers in following formats:

		(D) Drains					
District/Town	Sewage and Sullage flowing in open drains (Storm water drains / concretised drains / unlined/ka	Flow in each drain (MLD)	Quality / Characteristics of effluent	Quantity of industrial effluent discharged in drain (MLD)	Final point of discharge of drain	Whether storm water drain is diverted to STP?	Time bound action plan to prevent sewage discharge into drain

	tcha drains) (No. of drains)						
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

6. We further find that as per disclosure made in annexure-3 (page 1958), out of 20 STPs monitored, 56 MLD STP at S.B.R. Morty, Ghaziabad are not meeting standards, and effluents are being discharged into river Hindon.

7. Water Quality of rivers disclosed in annexure-5 for Krishni, Kali west and Hindon indicates that these rivers have no dissolved oxygen, high BOD and fecal coliform and these rivers are not fit even for survival of aquatic life. We direct the CPCB and UPPCB to disclose joint performance of 20 STPs and water quality of river and file the status report.

8. Learned Counsel appearing for State of UP submits that above aspects will be looked into and fresh affidavit of Chief Secretary, State of UP will be filed within six weeks.

9. Learned Counsel for the applicant also seeks four weeks’ time to file objections to the affidavit of Chief Secretary, UP dated 10.09.2025.

10. Counsel for the applicant referring to paragraph no.4 of the order of the Tribunal dated 06.05.2024 has submitted that erring officers were required to be prosecuted but their status has not been disclosed.

11. Responding to it, Learned Counsel appearing for State of UP has referred to paragraph no. 3 of the compliance report filed by UPPCB dated 03.05.2024 and has submitted that steps have already been taken to

prosecute. He has submitted that in the next report present status of the prosecution will be also be disclosed.

12. List on 17.02.2026

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

December 09, 2025
Original Application No. 859/2022
(I.A. Nos. 445/2024, 632/2023 & 769/2023)
& Original Application No. 512/2024
JG.