

Item No. 15

Court No. 1

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

M.A. No. 26/2025

In

Original Application No. 310/2022

And

Original Application No. 56/2024

Kamlesh Singh

Applicant

Versus

State of Uttar & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 17.02.2025

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

Applicant: Mr. Saurabh Tiwari, Applicant in Person in OA No. 56/2024 (Through VC)

Respondents: Mr. Ankit Verma, Adv. for the State of UP
Mr. Gigi. C. George & Mr. Ishwer Singh, Advs. for NMCG & CWC
Mr. Amit Shukla, Adv. for UP PCB
Mr. Raj Kumar, Adv. for CPCB

ORDER

1. This MA has been registered on the basis of the so-called report submitted by the UP PCB in compliance of the direction of the Tribunal dated 23.12.2024 passed in O.A. No. 310/2022 and connected M.A.

2. In the OA and MA, the Tribunal was considering the grievance about quality of water in river Ganga and Yamuna in Prayagraj and examining the allegation of the discharge of untreated sewage through the drains in river Ganga and Yamuna with reference to Magh Mela and Kumbh Mela. The Tribunal by order dated 23.12.2024 had disposed of the OA by issuing following directions:-

19. Hence, we dispose of the MA and OA with the following directions:-

- i) *During the Maha Kumbh in order to have a better monitoring mechanism and to ensure that on account of the unwanted flow of untreated sewage in river Ganga and Yamuna, the pilgrims who come for holy bath may not suffer, the CPCB and UPPCB will increase their monitoring points and frequency of monitoring on river Ganga and Yamuna.*
- ii) *The CPCB and UPPCB will take the water samples from river Ganga and Yamuna from the points atleast twice a week at regular intervals by avoiding duplicacy of sample on the same day and will display the sample analysis report on the website of UP PCB and CPCB. The report will also include performance of STPs and geo-tubes.*
- iii) *Periodic samples will be collected by UP PCB and CPCB at the outlet of STPs and advanced oxidation ponds and the analytical reports be uploaded on website of PCB and CPCB. Apart from the above, the online monitoring data will also be uploaded.*
- iv) *The sample analysis report will be sent by CPCB and UP PCB during the Mela fortnightly to the Registrar General of the Tribunal so that in case of need, the matter can be listed for consideration again.*
- v) *The solid waste generated during the event will be managed as per the prescribed Rules relating to its management and disposal.*
- vi) *It has been pointed out that the Magh Mela will continue from 12.01.2025 till 26.02.2025 for about 45 days and there will be six important bathing days. The regulatory agencies will strengthen the management system and be more prompt in ensuring the compliance, especially during the days of increase footfall. The authorities will ensure that no untreated sewage and solid waste from any of the drains in Prayagraj is discharged in river Ganga and Yamuna. The UP PCB and CPCB shall ensure that the river water quality at all times is drinking water/bathing water quality.*
- vii) *During the Maha Kumbh and after the Maha Kumbh is over, the authorities will take steps for effective disposal of the sludge generated in the STPs and deposited in geo-tubes by following the requisite environmental norms and for the same, performance report shall be filed.*
- viii) *In addition to submitting the sample analysis report as directed in para*
- (iv) *above, the CPCB and UPPCB will submit comprehensive action taken report before the Registrar General of the*

Tribunal by 31.01.2025 and 28.02.2025 disclosing the status of compliance.”

3. In compliance of the above direction, CPCB has filed the report dated 03.02.2025 pointing out the following non-compliance/violations:-

“1. River Water Quality

- (iv) *With respect to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), river water quality was not conforming with the bathing criteria during monitoring carried out on 12-13 January, 2025 at most of the locations, however after that organic pollution (in terms of BOD) started to decrease due to freshwater intrusion at upstream locations. After 13th January 2025, river water quality conforming the bathing criteria w.r.t. BOD except Lord Curzon bridge on river Ganga on 19th January, 2025.*
- (v) *River water quality was not conforming with the primary water quality for bathing w.r.t. Fecal Coliform (FC) at all the monitored locations on various occasions. Huge number of people taking bath at Prayagraj during Maha Kumbh Mela in river including auspicious bathing days which eventually leads to increase in fecal concentration.*

Table 1: River water quality status at Prayagraj during Maha-Kumbh 2025

Date	River	Location	pH Total (6.5 - 8.5)	DO (≥ 5 mg/l)	BOD (mg/L)	Total Coliform	Fecal Coliform
12.01.2024	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	7.45	9	2.44	4500	<1.8
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	7.41	8.8	2.36	7800	<1.8
	Ganga	Before Shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki Mandir	7.48	8.7	2.16	4500	<1.8
	Ganga	Sangam	7.52	8.5	3.74	4500	2000
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	7.63	7.9	5.24	17000	4500
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	7.87	8	4.52	17000	2000
	Yamuna	B/c to river Ganga at Sangam	7.84	8.1	3.64	70000	4500
13.01.2025	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	7.88	9.1	3.42	49000	23000
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	7.93	7	2.22	45000	2000
	Ganga	Before Shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki	7.91	8.9	4.48	45000	2000

		Mandir					
	Ganga	Sangam	7.92	9.2	3.94	4500	<1.8
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	8.09	9.5	3.58	130000	33000
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	8.11	9	4.82	9300	11000
	Yamuna	Before confluence to river Ganga at Sangam	8.08	9	4.70	3300	2000
14.01.2025	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	7.64	9.2	<1	2000	<1.8
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	7.84	8.9	1.63	4500	<1.8
	Ganga	Before Shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki Mandir	7.88	8.8	1.25	17000	4500
	Ganga	Sangam	7.86	7.8	2.18	49000	11000
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	7.97	7.5	2.49	33000	17000
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	8.19	8.2	1.06	79000	33000
	Yamuna	Before confluence to river Ganga at Sangam	8.17	8.3	1.66	7800	2000
15.01.2024	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	8.21	9	<1	2000	<1.8
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	8.19	8.9	<1	49000	7800
	Ganga	Before Shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki Mandir	8.11	8.9	1.09	130000	13000
	Ganga	Sangam	8.19	8.5	<1	20000	6800
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	8.2	8.6	<1	7800	4500
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	8.22	8.9	<1	49000	2000
	Yamuna	Before confluence to river Ganga at Sangam	8.16	8.8	<1	33000	2000
19.01.2024	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	7.81	9.4	1.76	<1.8	<1.8
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	8.18	9	4.52	13000	7800
	Ganga	Before Shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki Mandir	8.22	8.8	1.36	204000	4500

20.01.2025	Ganga	Sangam	7.47	8.6	2.46	700000	49000
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	7.34	8.9	<1.0	33000	7800
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	7.88	8.4	1.78	130000	23000
	Yamuna	Before confluence to river Ganga at Sangam	7.72	8.2	2.15	330000	33000
24.01.2025	Ganga	Shringverpur Ghat	6.95	10.2	RA	RA	RA
	Ganga	Lord Curzon bridge	7.48	10	RA	RA	RA
	Ganga	Before Shashtri bridge near Nagvasuki Mandir	7.88	10.5	RA	RA	RA
	Ganga	Sangam	7.92	9.7	RA	RA	RA
	Ganga	Deeha Ghat	7.82	8.5	RA	RA	RA
	Yamuna	Old Naini Bridge	7.84	8.2	RA	RA	RA
	Yamuna	Before confluence to river Ganga at Sangam	7.92	8.2	RA	RA	RA

Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs)

- i. There are ten (10) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) installed at Prayagraj with treatment capacity of 340 MLD. Seven (07) STPs discharge their treated wastewater into R. Ganga while three (03) into R. Yamuna. Photographs are attached as Annexure-3.
- ii. All STPs were found operational and samples from outlet of the STPs were collected. As per sample analysis report, all STPs are complying with stipulated norms notified by MoEF & CC except one (10 MLD STP, Ponghat).
- iii. Disinfection facility at all STPs was found operational during visit.
- iv. It was also observed that all the STPs were operational at more than its installed capacity except 14 MLD STP Salori.

Table 2: Compliance status of STPs in Prayagraj during Maha-Kumbh 2025 with its operational capacity

S. N.	Location	Installed/ utilized capacity (MLD)	Date of Visit	pH	BOD (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	TSS (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform (MPN/ 100ml)	Compliance status As per MoEF & CC
1.	Phaphamau	14/ 17.92	20.01.2025	7.12	16.8	52.3	16.4	<1.8	Complying
2.	Numayadahi	50/ 57.76	21.01.2025	7.52	8.36	27.9	16.2	<1.8	Complying

3.	Naini, Old	80/ 123.15	21.01.2025	7.69	14.7	56.2	16.4	<1.8	Complying
4.	Naini, New	42/ 48.63	20.01.2025	7.4	6.75	32.9	21.2	<1.8	Complying
5.	Jhunsi	16/ 17.34	21.01.2025	7.44	15.4	57.4	24.8	<1.8	Complying
6.	Salori, Old	29/ 39	21.01.2025	7.33	17.4	60.8	17.6	<1.8	Complying
7.	Salori, New	14/ 13.89	21.01.2025	7.44	6.32	21.7	3.4	<1.8	Complying
8.	Rajapur	60/ 88.9	20.01.2025	7.43	28	85.6	23.6	<1.8	Complying
9.	Ponghat	10/ 16.82	21.01.2025	7.45	32	111	54.4	<1.8	Non-Complying
10.	Kodra	25/ 32.52	21.01.2025	7.48	3.76	14.3	11.6	<1.8	Complying

3. Geosynthetic Dewatering Tubes filtration followed by Advanced Oxidation Process monitoring

- i. Seven (07) Geosynthetic Dewatering Tubes (geo-tube) filtration sites were operational at Prayagraj. All seven (07) sites were visited by team of CPCB during 6-8 Jan, 2025 to verify the installation status and during 18-19 January, 2025 for its treatment verification.
- ii. Twenty-one (21) number of drains were tapped and treated through, under geo-tube system. (Annexure-4).
- iii. All seven (07) geo-tubes were monitored and sample was collected & analysed in CPCB RD, Lucknow Lab. As per sample analysis results, all were found non complying w.r.t prescribed norms for pH (6.5-8.5), DO (5.0 mg/l), TSS (50 mg/l), COD (100 mg/l), BOD (30 mg/l) & FC (230 MPN/100ml) (as prescribed in 55th EC of NMCG with agenda item no. 55.12).
- iv. Compliance status (site wise) of the geo-tubes is given in table 3 and photographs are annexed as Annexure-5.

Table 3: Compliance status of Geo-tubes installed to treat the drains discharging in to R. Ganga and Yamuna

Geo-tube name	Date of Visit	PH	DO	TSS (mg/L)	COD (mg/L)	BOD (mg/L)	Fecal Coliform (MPN/100ml)	Compliance status
		Standards						
		6.5-8.5	5.0 mg/l	50 mg/l,	100 mg/l,	30 mg/l,	230 MPN/100 ml,	
Sadar Bazar Drain	18.01.2025	7.63	5.5	39.2	109	43.8	2.0 x10 ³	Non-Complying
Rajapur Drain	18.01.2025	7.38	4	41.2	83.1	22.2	3.5 x10 ⁶	Non-

								Complying
ADA Colony/ Jwala Devi Drain	18.01.2025	7.3	5.5	59.4	80.4	22	5.4x10 ⁶	Non- Complying
Jondhwal Drain	18.01.2025	7.19	6	68	132	36.2	9.2x10 ⁶	Non- Complying
Shivkuti Drain	18.01.2025	7.49	2	82.8	68	22.8	<1.8	Non- Complying
Salori Drain	18.01.2025	7.4	3	40.4	66.1	31.5	3.5x10 ⁶	Non- Complying
Sasur Khaderi River	19.01.2025	7.49	1	70	41.4	14.9	9.2x10 ⁶	Non- Complying

4. The report further mentions about the status of the Sadar Bazar drain, Rajapur drain, ADA Colony/Jwala Devi drain, Jhondhwal drain, Shivkuti drain, Salori drain, Sasur Khaderi drain and reveals that no flow meter was observed in inlet and outlet in any of these drains.

5. So far as the UP PCB is concerned no comprehensive action taken report as directed by the Tribunal in paragraph 19(viii) of the order dated 23.12.2024 has been filed. Along with the covering letter address to the Registrar General dated 28.01.2025 the In-charge Central Laboratory, UP PCB has enclosed certain water test reports. Thus, we find that the order of the Tribunal to file comprehensive action taken report has not been complied with by the UP PCB.

6. Even on the perusal of the documents enclosed along with the covering letter dated 28.01.2025 sent by the In-charge Central Laboratory, UP PCB it is reflected that the High level of fecal and total coliform has been found in various location.

7. Learned counsel for the State of UP seeks one day time to examine the reports and filed response thereto. Member Secretary, UP PCB and the concerned State Authority who are responsible for maintaining the

water quality in river Ganga at Prayagraj are directed to appear virtually on the next date of hearing.

8. List on 19.02.2025.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Sudhir Agarwal, JM

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

February 17, 2025
M.A. No. 26/2025 in OA No. 310/2022
Original Application No. 56/2024
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