

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

Original Application No. 513/2024

**In ref: News Item published in The Times of India dated 12.03.2024
titled "10 wetlands in Asola to conserve rainwater"**

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Srinivas Vishven

Filed by
Adv. Srinivas Vishven
(On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board)

Date: 23.08.2024
Place: Delhi

Compliance Report by Central Pollution Control Board in compliance of order dated 10.05.2024 in the matter of OA No. 513 of 2024, Suo Moto matter In re News item appearing in The Times of India dated 12.03.2024 Titled “10 wetlands in Asola to conserve rainwater”.

1.0 Preamble:

The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (Principal Bench), New Delhi had registered a *Suo Moto* Original Application No. 513 of 2024 based on a news item published in The Times of India dated 12.03.2024 titled "10 wetlands in Asola to conserve rainwater" and passed an order dated 10.05.2024 attached as **Annexure-I** wherein CPCB has been impleaded as Respondent No. 3 directed to file a comprehensive report on the issue involved:

"1. This original application is registered suo-motu on the basis of the news item titled "10 wetlands in Asola to conserve rainwater" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated 12.03.2024.

2. The news item relates to the plan of officials at Asola Wildlife Sanctuary and South Forest Division, under the Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department, to conserve water this monsoon through refurbished wetlands. The news item states that the officials have identified 10 major wetlands in South Delhi's forest area. The news item quotes that according to the plan, the department aims at conserving 801.79 lakh liters of water through wetlands and ponds. It states that many forgotten wetlands were also revived and their history was traced with the help of villagers and retired forest officials.

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8. Respondent No. 3 is directed to file a comprehensive report on the issue involved in this OA at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF."

2.0 Action Taken

2.1 Meeting with concerned authorities

In compliance of above-mentioned order, CPCB convened a meeting on 31-05-2024 through video conferencing with representatives of Wetland Authority of Delhi, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and Department of Forests and Wildlife, Delhi for detail discussion in the matter.

During the meeting, Delhi State Wetland Authority informed that status report on said ten water bodies has been sought from the Department of Forests and Wildlife (South Division). It was also informed by Department of Forests and Wildlife that status report is under preparation which will be shared among all the participants i.e. Delhi State Wetland Authority, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and CPCB.

In the subsequent discussion, it was decided that a joint visit will be conducted at Asola Wildlife Sanctuary on 11-06-2024.

2.2 Field Visit:

A joint visit was conducted on 11-06-2024 to inspect ten water bodies in Asola Wildlife Sanctuary, South Delhi's forest area. The following officials were presented during the visit:

Sr. No.	Name and designation of the Officer	Organization
1.	Sh. R. P. Gurung, Scientist-'E'	Central Pollution Control Board
2.	Sh. Partha Pratim Maity, Scientist-'B'	Central Pollution Control Board
3.	Mr Amzad Khan, Jr. Environmental Engineer	Delhi Pollution Control Committee
4.	Sh Nikunj Malik, Jr. Environmental Engineer	Delhi Pollution Control Committee



5.	Sh. Onkar Chauhan, Draughtsman & GIS Analyst	Dept. of Forests and Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
6.	Sh. Rajesh Roshan, Office assistant	Wetland Authority of Delhi

3.0 Details of the Project on Construction of Wetlands:

The project on development of ten water bodies in Asola Wildlife Sanctuary was undertaken by the Department of Forest and Wildlife, South Division, Tughlakabad, Delhi (South) based on the recommendation of a meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee (DLAC) held on 10.11.2023, chaired by the District Magistrate (South) on the agenda about augmentation of ground water resources in areas having low groundwater table through specific activities such as rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge. The DCF South initiated the construction of 10 new water bodies in Maidan Garhi, Sahoopur and Satbari areas, where the depletion of the groundwater table has been occurring over the last 10 years.

3.1 Observations:

Based on the discussions with officers of Department of Forest and Wildlife in Delhi (South) and the field inspection, the following observations were made.

1. These ten water bodies have been constructed for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge. Details of the water bodies are mentioned in **Annexure II**.
2. The location of the ten water bodies were determined based on the depressions identified in the Digital Elevation Model. Department of Forest and Wildlife has only developed them for construction of water bodies.
3. The source of water of all ten water bodies is rain water and no artificial filling/recharge is proposed.



4. No concrete construction has been used in the ten water bodies. Stones pitching will be used to stabilize the banks, along with *doob* grass and shrubs plantation.
5. The activities - dredging and *bund* preparation and tree saplings plantation around the water bodies have been completed in all ten water bodies, the activity - plantation of *doab* grass and shrubs for stablisation of *bund* has been completed in five water bodies, and the activities - stone pitching and cleaning of catchment channels are to be undertaken in all ten water bodies. The details of progress made in construction of the ten water bodies are provided in **Annexure III**
6. It was reported that tree saplings planted around the water bodies are native to the area.



(Vishal Gandhi)

Scientist 'E'

Central Pollution Control Board

Item No. 04

Court No. 1

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

Original Application No. 513/2024

News item titled "10 wetlands in Asola to conserve rainwater" appearing in The Times of India dated 12.03.2024

Date of hearing: 10.05.2024

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, CHAIRPERSON
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 "10 wetlands in Asola to conserve rainwater" appearing in 'The Times of India' dated 12.03.2024.

2. The news item relates to the plan of officials at Asola Wildlife Sanctuary and South Forest Division, under the Delhi Forest and Wildlife Department, to conserve water this monsoon through refurbished wetlands. The news item states that the officials have identified 10 major wetlands in South Delhi's forest area. The news item quotes that according to the plan, the department aims at conserving 801.79 lakh liters of water through wetlands and ponds. It states that many forgotten wetlands were also revived and their history was traced with the help of villagers and retired forest officials.

3. As per the news item, Delhi has a variety of water bodies. However, over the years most of the water bodies have either been encroached upon, or are heavily polluted or have silt, making them less functional. This is also true for groundwater recharge. It further states that a total of

over 142 relatively small size water bodies in Delhi have either been completely built up (20%), turned into parks (9%), or filled with contaminated water (12%).

4. The news item raises substantial issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms.

5. Power of the Tribunal to take up the matter *suo-motu* has been recognized 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.

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

- (1). Delhi State Wetland Authority, through its Member Secretary, 6th Level, C-Wing, Delhi Secretariat, I.P. Estate, New Delhi - 110002.
- (2). Delhi Pollution Control Committee, through its Member Secretary, 4th and 5th floor, ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate, Delhi- 110006.
- (3). Central Pollution Control Board, through its Member Secretary, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi- 110032.

7. Issue notice to the above respondents for filing the response at least one week before the next date of hearing.

8. Respondent No. 3 is directed to file a comprehensive report on the issue involved in this OA at least one week before the next date of hearing by e-mail at judicial-ngt@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

9. List on 27.08.2024.

Prakash Shrivastava, CP

Dr. A. Senthil Vel, EM

May 10, 2024
Original Application No. 513/2024
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Annexure II

Details of ten water bodies at Asola Wildlife Sanctuary

S. No.	Water Bodies No.	Location	Coordinates	Khasra No.	Area (sq m)	Approx Depth (m)	Perimeter (m)	Water Holding Capacity (Litre)
1	Water Body 3	Maidangarhi	Latitude : 28° 28' 28.37" N Longitude : 77° 13' 14.43" E	661	3,971	3	243	93,81,488
2	Water Body 5	Satbari	Latitude : 28° 27' 37.50" N Longitude : 77° 13' 21.83" E	1139	3,159	3.3	208	77,00,063
3	Water Body 6	Satbari	Latitude : 28° 27' 54.66" N Longitude : 77° 12' 37.55" E	1098	2,776	3.2	214	65,58,300
4	Water Body 7	Sahoorpur	Latitude : 28° 27' 52.47" N Longitude : 77° 12' 37.55" E	486	4,316	3.1	248	98,72,850
5	Water Body 9	Sahoorpur	Latitude : 28° 27' 23.54" N Longitude : 77° 13' 46.00" E	534	4,117	2.6	234	78,73,763
6	Water Body 1	Maidangarhi	Latitude : 28° 28' 5.62" N Longitude : 77° 13' 18.04" E	664	3,662	3	234	72,52,875
7	Water Body 2	Satbari	Latitude : 28° 28' 6.16" N Longitude : 77° 12' 59.96" E	1130	4,017	3.1	252	93,39,525
8	Water Body 4	Satbari	Latitude : 28° 27' 53.32" N Longitude : 77° 13' 1.87" E	1131	3,046	3	205	61,68,150
9	Water Body 8	Sahoorpur	Latitude : 28° 27' 22.91" N Longitude : 77° 13' 7.93" E	520	3,306	3	226	74,38,500
10	Water Body 10	Sahoorpur	Latitude : 28° 27' 24.26" N Longitude : 77° 13' 28.71" E	533	4,915	3.36	266	82,94,063

Annexure III

Detailed progress reports of all ten water bodies at Asola Wildlife Sanctuary

S. No.	Water Bodies No.	Location	Phase	Work in Progress	Work Completed
1.	Water Body 3	Maidangarhi	Phase 1	Maintenance Continued	Tree Plantation Surrounding Water Bodies, Dredging and proper bunding work, Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass), Shrubs Plantation and Stone Pitching on Bunds
2.	Water Body 5	Satbari	Phase 1	Planning of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work along Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass), Shrubs Plantation on the Bunds of the waterbodies as well as sapling plantation surrounding areas, have been completed
3.	Water Body 6	Satbari	Phase 1	Planning of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work along Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass), Shrubs Plantation on the Bunds of the waterbodies as well as sapling plantation surrounding areas, have been completed
4.	Water Body 7	Sahoorpur	Phase 1	Planning of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work along Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass), Shrubs Plantation on the Bunds of the waterbodies as well as sapling plantation surrounding areas, have been completed
5.	Water Body 9	Sahoorpur	Phase 1	Planning of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work along Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass), Shrubs Plantation on the Bunds of the waterbodies as well as sapling plantation surrounding areas, have been completed
6.	Water Body 1	Maidangarhi	Phase 2	Planning of Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass) and Shrubs Plantation On Bund and its Surrounding. Proposal of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work and Native Tree Sapling Plantation Surrounding Water Bodies has been Completed
7.	Water Body 2	Satbari	Phase 2	Planning of Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass) and Shrubs Plantation On	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work and Native Tree Sapling Plantation Surrounding Water Bodies has been Completed

				Bund and its Surrounding. Proposal of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	
8.	Water Body 4	Satbari	Phase 2	Planning of Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass) and Shrubs Plantation On Bund and its Surrounding. Proposal of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work and Native Tree Sapling Plantation Surrounding Water Bodies has been Completed
9.	Water Body 8	Sahoorpur	Phase 2	Planning of Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass) and Shrubs Plantation On Bund and its Surrounding. Proposal of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work and Native Tree Sapling Plantation Surrounding Water Bodies has been Completed
10.	Water Body10	Sahoorpur	Phase 2	Planning of Doobgraas (Durva Bahama Grass) and Shrubs Plantation On Bund and its Surrounding. Proposal of Stone Pitching Work and Cleaning of Catchment Channels and Water Shed of Water Bodies	Proper Dredging and proper bunding work and Native Tree Sapling Plantation Surrounding Water Bodies has been Completed