

Monthly Status Report for October w.r.t. O.A. No. 138 of 2016 and O.A. No. 139 of 2016 titled Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Motu case)

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It is submitted that Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has passed an order dated 7th August, 2018 (**flag 'A'**) vide which it is informed that proceedings in the matter O.A. No. 138 of 2016 and O.A. No. 139 of 2016 titled Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River (Suo-Motu case) were initiated before the Tribunal on a reference received from the National Human Right Commission (NHRC). The NHRC took Suo-Motu action on the basis of a news item appearing in The Tribune, dated 12.05.2014 under the caption "Stench Grips Mansa's Sacred Ghaggar River" to the effect that the river Ghaggar had turned into a polluted water body on account of discharge of effluents – industrial as well as municipal.

In pursuant to the order of Tribunal dated 09.12.2016, a joint inspection has been carried out by the representatives of the Central Pollution Control Board, Punjab State Pollution Control Board, Haryana Pollution Control Board, Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board. Officials of Union Territory, Chandigarh also joined the said inspection team. Further, as per report, submitted by the concerned Pollution Control Boards to the NHRC as well as Minutes of the meetings on various dates in which the respective States participated. The joint analysis report of the joint monitoring of river Ghaggar samples has also been filed. The findings of the joint inspection report are that values of various parameters such as BOD, TSS, Faecal Coliform, Lead and Iron were beyond permissible limits at most of the locations in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh.

The Chief Secretaries of the States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and also the Administrator of U.T., Chandigarh have been directed to constitute Special Task Force (STFs) comprising of District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Regional Officer of the State Pollution Control Board in concerned District and one person to be nominated by the District Judge in every District in his capacity of Head of the District Legal Services Authority. Such STF may identify persons responsible for violation of law so that action can be taken. At the State Level, the STF will comprise of the Chief Secretary, Secretary Environment, Secretary of Urban Development and Secretary of Local Body. The District Level Special Task Force will submit a monthly action taken report to the State Level Task Force and State Level Special Task Force will furnish 3 monthly report or the action taken to the Central Pollution Control Board

An Executive Committee was also constituted by Hon'ble NGT (as per para 8 of the order) under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Former Judge, Punjab and Haryana High Court. A preliminary meeting of the representatives of all the State/UT was held on 31.08.2018, in which, the issue of constitution of Special Task Force (STF) in compliance of the above referred order of the Hon'ble NGT was also discussed (para 6 of the order).

Accordingly, District Level Special Task Force and a State Level Special Task Force was constituted by the Environment Department, Chandigarh Administration vide order dated 07.09.2018 (**flag 'B'**).

The mandate of the above task force has also been given in the order of Hon'ble NGT. The STF at the district level has the mandate of indentifying the persons responsible for the violations of the law so that the action can be taken. The State level STF has to furnish three monthly report to the CPCB which will be based on the monthly report submitted by District Level STF.

The first meeting of District Level Special Task Force was held on 01.10.2018. The detail of decisions taken in the said meeting and action taken on the decisions are given as under:

Sr. No.	Decision taken in the meeting	Action taken report
1	Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh and Engineering Department, Chandigarh Administration will upgrade the existing STPs/set up new STPs in their respective jurisdiction to meet with the standards directed by CPCB/CPCC and action plan in this regard alongwith timeline will be submitted within 15 days.	Action Plan has not been submitted.
2	The officers of Chandigarh Pollution Control Committee (CPCC), Engineering Department Chd. Admn. and Municipal Corporation, Chd. have identified the 10 points where sewerage water is discharged without treatment into SukhnaChoe. Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh and Engineering Department, Chandigarh Administration will take measures to tap these points to ensure that no untreated waste water release into SukhnaChoe. Status report in this regard will be submitted by the M.C. within 15 days.	Reply submitted by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh & Engineering Department, Chandigarh Administration is placed at Annexure-I & II.
3	Prior intimation shall be given by the CPCC to the Police Deptt. for providing police protection to the officers for carrying out inspection and deputing the beat cops with the team.	Action will be taken whenever required.
4	Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh will provide the list of industrial plots who have not taken sewer connection.	Not provided by MCC
5	Points where waste water is being discharged into N-Choe to be identified in the coming time	CPCC has provided the list of points where waste water is being discharged into N-Choe in 2 nd meeting

		(placed at Annexure-III)
6	CPCC will provide the quality of drains at entry/exit points.	CPCC has provided the Data in 2 nd meeting (placed at Annexure-IV).
7	MC, Chd. will provide the details of discharge points at Patiala kiRao and provide the action plan for stoppage of the same.	Not provided by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh
8	MC, Chd. will identify the people who have laid down illegal pipelines and discharging waste water into storm water drainage system/drains and Public Notice shall be given by the CPCC in this regard	Not provided by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh

The second meeting of District Level Special Task Force was held on 11.10.2018. The detail of decisions taken in the said meeting and action taken on the decisions are given as under:-

Sr. No.	Decision taken in the meeting	Action taken report
1	The points through which the waste water is being discharged directly into the N-choe should be closed within 15 days by the M.C.	No reply was received from Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh
2	The draft of action plan will be given by the Environment Deptt. to the Municipal Corporation by today and thereafter the action taken report will be submitted by the Municipal Corporation within today's.	Format for Action Plan has been provided to both Agencies but Action Plan has not been received.
3	The pipeline laid down illegally by the road side vendors near the N-choe should be closed by the M.C. within 3-4 days.	No reply has been received.
4	Advertisement should be given by the M.C. in which the team is going for removal of pipeline laid down illegally in the area under the Chandigarh jurisdiction by the roadside vendors near the N-choe.	No intimation was provided by Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh

Thereafter, meeting of all the concerned Head of Departments alongwith their Nodal Officers as well as State Level Special Task Force and District Level Special Task Force was held on 22nd October, 2018 under the Chairmanship of Justice Pritam Pal, Chairman, Executing Committee.

As per the directions of Executing Committee reply has been filed by the Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh w.r.t. Solid Waste Management and Waste Water discharge however no reply from Engineering Department, Chandigarh Administration (which is managing some areas of drains & STPs)

and Chandigarh Smart City Limited (which is going to upgrade existing STPs & setting up of new STPs).