

Item No.01

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
CENTRAL ZONE BENCH, BHOPAL
(THROUGH PHYSICAL HEARING (WITH HYBRID OPTION))**

Original Application No.161/2026(CZ)

Dr. Govind Singh

Applicant(s)

Vs.

State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of Hearing: 07.08.2026

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEO KUMAR SINGH, JUDICIAL MEMBER
HON'BLE MR. SUDHIR KUMAR CHATURVEDI, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant (s): Mr. Pulkit Godha, Adv.
 Ms. Mahima Singh, Adv.

For Respondent(s): None

ORDER

1. The grievance of the Applicant is that the large-scale, unauthorized and mechanized instream sand mining being openly carried out on the river Sindh, a principal tributary of the Chambal, Yamuna system, ecologically continuous with the National Chambal (Gharial) Wildlife Sanctuary, across 18 villages in District Bhind and 6 villages in District Datia, Madhya Pradesh ("Affected Villages"). The mining is carried out using heavy earth-moving machinery and boats fitted with suction-dredging equipment operating within the live river channel, and the extracted sand is transported, largely without valid transit permits, into Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Photographic evidence documents this illegality. The activity is carried out without a valid District Survey Report or environmental clearance, and has already attracted preliminary Vigilance enquiry into police complicity.
2. It is argued that the Respondent-State has failed to implement, in District Bhind and District Datia, the specific mechanism that this very

Hon'ble Tribunal has already prescribed for the State of Madhya Pradesh in Smt. Geeta @ Laxmi Meena v. State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors., OA No. 75/2021 (CZ) - namely, a District Level Task Force, periodic five-member SEIAA-headed inspection, District Survey Report revision and Annual Replenishment Study, NPV-based environmental compensation, and the vehicle/equipment penalty schedule laid down in Mushtakeem v. MoEF&CC & Ors., OA No. 44/2016 demonstrating a systemic default that this Application seeks to remedy specifically in respect of the River Sindh.

3. The large-scale illegal sand mining being carried out in the Sindh River poses a serious threat to the river's ecology, aquatic life, and wildlife. The Sindh River serves as a breeding ground for crocodiles and several species of migratory birds. Critically endangered Indian flap shell turtles and gharials are also regularly found in the river. The uncontrolled illegal mining causes severe water pollution and destroys the natural habitat of these species. Further, in-stream mining adversely affects the river's flow, stability, and ecological balance, thereby endangering the very existence of the river.
4. A substantial issue of environment has been raised.
5. Issue notice to the Respondents, returnable within four weeks. Respondents are directed to submit their reply within six weeks through E-filing portal, preferably in the form of searchable PDF/ OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.
6. Applicant is directed to take necessary steps for service to the Respondents by both ways and also on available email.
7. We deem it just and proper to call a report on the matter in issue in present Original Application, from a Joint Committee consisting of:-

- i. One representative from the Central Pollution Control Board.
 - ii. One representative nominated by the Secretary, Environment Department, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal.
 - iii. One representative nominated by the Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board
8. The Committee is directed to visit the place and submit the factual and action taken report within six weeks. The State PCB will be the nodal agency for coordination and logistic support.
9. Applicant is directed to supply the copy of the application and relevant documents to the Committee and Respondent(s) within a week and after compliance of service, the Applicant has to submit an affidavit that the notice and copy of the application have been served upon the Committee and Respondent(s).
10. The report in the matter be filed by the Committee through email at ngtczbbho-mp@gov.in preferably in the form of searchable PDF/OCR Support PDF and not in the form of Image PDF.

List is on **7th October, 2026.**

Sheo Kumar Singh, JM

Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, EM

7th August, 2026

O.A. No.161/2026(CZ)

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