

Item No.01

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

Original Application No.224/2026(CZ)

Er. Zubair Iqbal

Applicant(s)

Vs.

State of Madhya Pradesh & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of Hearing: 09.10.2026

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

For Applicant(s):

Mr. Hemant Gupta, Adv. with
Mr. Harpreet Singh Gupta, Adv.
Mr. Srajan Jain, Adv.

For Respondent(s):

ORDER

1. The River Betwa (Vetwa) is a major inter-State River and a tributary of the River Yamuna, which in turn drains into the Ganga basin. Its bed, banks and flood plain constitute an ecologically sensitive riverine ecosystem and a natural resource held by the State in public trust for the benefit of the people.
2. The village Jonakhedi, Tehsil Kurwai, District Vidisha is situated on the bank of the River Betwa. Shri Kishan, S/o (Late) Kunjilal ("Respondent No. 11"), the owner/occupant of agricultural land bearing Khasra Nos. 7/1, 1/3(S), 12/2(S), 11/1/5, 11/1/6, 34, 9, 7/1/6, 12, 10 and 3 of Village Jonakhedi (which lands abut the river), has for several years, at least since 2019 and continuing to date, been carrying on large-scale, mechanised and wholly illegal extraction of sand and coarse sand (bajri) from the bed, banks and flood plain of the River Betwa, by using the said private land as an access point and by deploying poclain machines

(excavators), suction/submersible pumps mounted on pontoons/boats, sand-sieving machines ("chhanna"), tractor-trolleys and dumper trucks. Respondent No. 11 has, on the Applicant's information and belief, further monetised the illegality by realising illegal 'rangdari' (extortionate) charges of approximately Rs. 200 per tractor-trolley and Rs. 2,400 per dumper truck from other persons extracting through an unauthorised twenty-foot approach road cut through the agricultural fields. There is no valid environmental clearance, no mining lease, no approved mining plan and no District Survey Report authorising any sand mining at Village Jonakhedi on the River Betwa. The Gram Panchayat has confirmed in writing that there is no legal sand quarry in Village Jonakhedi and that the only lawful authorisation in the area is in respect of a 2-hectare quarry over Khasra No. 17 of Village Sirawali on the River Betwa.

3. Learned counsel for the applicant has highlighted the photograph taken at the spot and submitted that there are huge accommodation of the sand mines and these activities are undertaken without any valid authority
4. A substantial issue of environmental has been raised. Issue notice to the respondents. Returnable within four weeks.
5. Applicant is directed to take necessary steps for service to the respondents by both ways and also on available email.
6. 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.
7. We deem it just and proper to call a report on the matter in issue, in present application, from a Joint Committee consisting of:
 - (i) One representative from the MoEF&CC at integrated office at Bhopal

- (ii) One representative from the Collector/District Magistrate, District Vidisha(M.P.)
- (iii) One representative from the Member Secretary, State Pollution Control Board, (M.P.)

8. The Committee is directed to visit the site 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 required documents and copy of the application to the committee and the respondents within a week and after compliance of service, the Applicant has to submit an affidavit that notices and copy of the application have been served upon the committee and respondents.
10. The report in the matter be filed by the Committee by 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 it on **9th December, 2026.**

Sheo Kumar Singh, JM

Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, EM

09th October, 2026,
Original Application No.224/2026(CZ)
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