EARTH WARRIOR

office copy

Date: 15 October 2026

To,
The Chairman,
Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC),
6th Floor, B Wing, Delhi Secretariat,
I.P. Estate, New Delhi – 110002
Email: chdpcc@nic.in

Sanjay Rawat
15/10/26
ENQUIRY COUNTER
DELHI POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
3RD FLOOR DMRC BUILDING
I.P. ESTATE, SHASTRI PARK, DELHI-110053

Subject: Mass Mortality of Fish in Yamuna River near Burari, North Delhi – Request for Immediate Intervention on Water Quality and Pollution Control

Respected Sir,

I am writing this formal representation to bring to your urgent attention the recent large-scale fish mortality in the Yamuna River near Burari, North Delhi, observed on the evening of 14 October 2026. Visual evidence recorded on 15 October 2026 at approximately 08:37 AM shows numerous dead fish floating in the river at Lat 28.769941° N, Long 77.218248° E (Badarpur Majra / Burari area, Delhi).

This incident is not isolated. Similar mass fish deaths were reported from the Burari stretch in May 2025. Earlier, in July 2024, thousands of dead fish were found near Burari, leading to suo-motu action by the National Green Tribunal (OA No. 923/2024), which directed the Central Pollution Control Board to coordinate with Delhi and Haryana authorities to fix responsibility and prevent recurrence.

Fish mortality is a critical bio-indicator of severe ecological stress in the aquatic ecosystem. The primary causes are widely recognised to include critically low levels of dissolved oxygen (DO), high Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), elevated faecal coliform counts, and the presence of toxic industrial and domestic effluents. Recent DPCC monitoring data has shown continuing deterioration in Yamuna water quality at multiple locations despite monsoon flows.

Importantly, Burari lies upstream of the Wazirabad Barrage. Water from the Yamuna is lifted at the Wazirabad Barrage for Delhi's drinking water supply. Therefore, the mass death of fish in the Burari stretch (upstream of Wazirabad) is not merely an environmental issue — it is a serious public health concern for the people of Delhi. If toxic or poisonous substances are present in the river in quantities sufficient to kill large numbers of fish upstream, the same water being abstracted downstream at Wazirabad for drinking purposes poses a direct risk to

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public health. This makes urgent investigation and control of pollution sources upstream of Wazirabad a matter of both ecological and human health urgency.

These repeated events raise serious concerns about the effectiveness of ongoing measures for sewage interception, sewage treatment plant performance, drain management, and control of industrial and cross-border pollution. From both an environmental and public health perspective, the continued pollution of the Yamuna upstream of Wazirabad is highly damaging to the river ecosystem and to the safety of Delhi's drinking water supply.

In light of the above, I respectfully request the following immediate actions:

1. Immediate on-site investigation and sampling of water quality (including DO, BOD, COD, pH, faecal coliform, heavy metals, toxic substances, and other pollutants) at the Burari stretch and further upstream locations to determine the precise cause of the fish mortality and to assess any risk to the drinking water intake at Wazirabad.
2. Identification and sealing/closure of any unauthorised or non-compliant drains, canals, or industrial units discharging untreated or partially treated effluents into the Yamuna upstream of Wazirabad, including cross-border contributions from Haryana.
3. Public release of the investigation findings and water quality data within a fixed timeline, along with a time-bound action plan to prevent recurrence and to protect Delhi's drinking water source.
4. Strengthened real-time monitoring of major drains and the river stretch upstream of Wazirabad, and accelerated implementation of sewage treatment upgrades and pollution control measures.
5. Coordination with CPCB, Delhi Jal Board, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, and other concerned agencies to address both the environmental and public health dimensions of the problem.

The health of the Yamuna is vital for the ecological balance of the river and for the public health of Delhi's citizens who depend on it for drinking water. Continued mass fish mortality is a clear warning of systemic failure that demands urgent and accountable action on both environmental and health grounds.

I request you to kindly acknowledge this representation and keep the undersigned informed of the action taken.

Yours faithfully,

Pankaj kumar Pankaj kumar
(Earth Warrior) 15/10/2026

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- **Copy to**

1. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat, New Delhi

2. The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Government of NCT of Delhi, Lok Niwas / Raj Niwas, Civil Lines, New Delhi

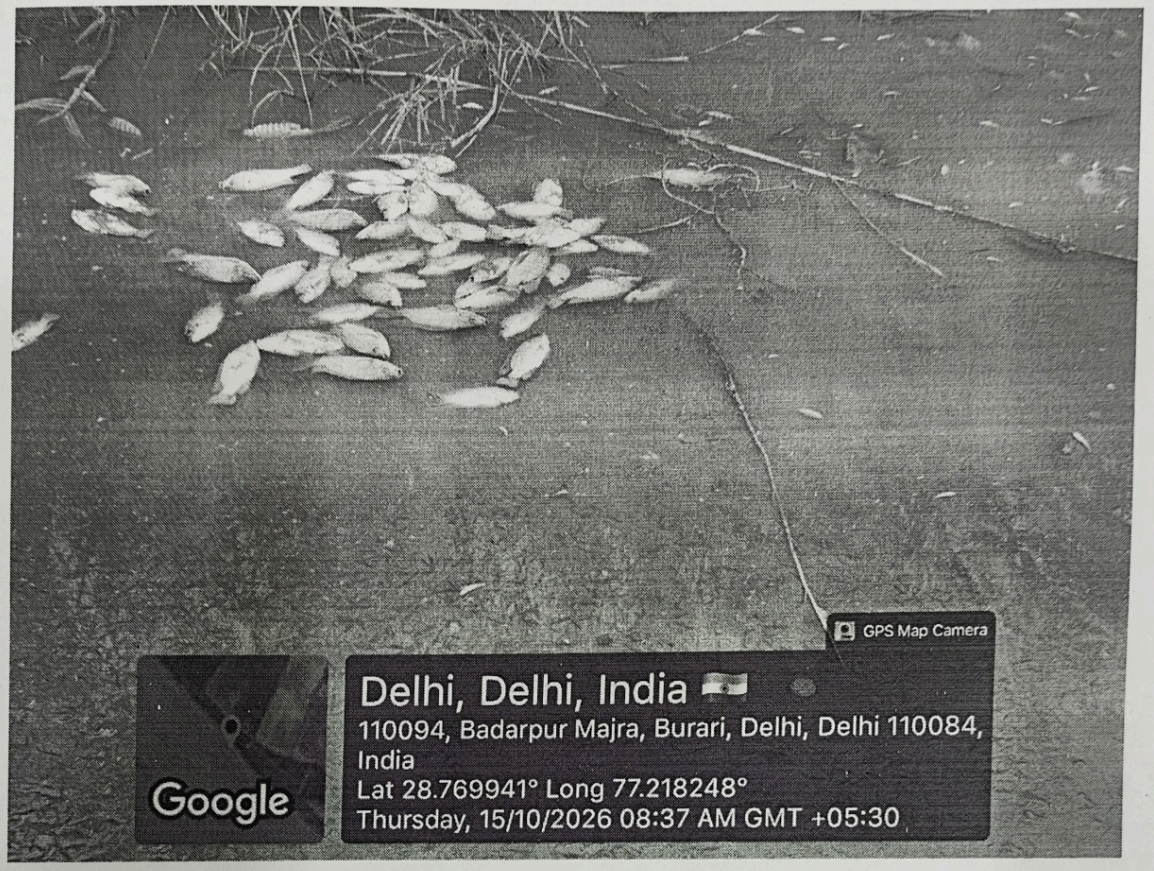
3. The Hon'ble Minister for Water, Irrigation & Flood Control, Government of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Secretariat

4. The Chief Executive Officer, Delhi Jal Board, Varunalaya Phase-II, Jhandewalan, New Delhi

5. The Member Secretary, Delhi Pollution Control Committee

6. The Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi

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