

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
EASTERN ZONE BENCH, KOLKATA  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 155/2025/EZ

RAJEEV KUMAR

...APPLICANT

-VERSUS-

STATE OF JHARKHAND & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

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**AISHWARYA RAJYASHREE**

**Advocate**

**Bar Association Room No. 5,**

**High Court, Calcutta**

**Chamber: 8/1, K.S. Roy Road,**

**Kolkata: 700001.**

**(M)9874995669**

**Email: [advaish.hc@gmail.com](mailto:advaish.hc@gmail.com)**

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COUNTER AFFIDAVIT FILED BY URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND (i.e. RESPONDENT NO. 2 HEREIN ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 1 AND 2).

I, SANTOSH SINGH, son of R. SINGH, aged about 47 years, occupation - Service, By Religion - HINDU, working for the office of Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand having its office at 4<sup>th</sup> floor Project Building Dhurwa, Ranchi, Ranchi - 834004, Jharkhand, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That, I JOINT SECRETARY, Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand, Jharkhand (i.e. Respondent No. 2 to the Original Application), and that I am dealing with the connected records of the case in possession of the office of Respondent No. 2 of the Original Application, and I am well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case and as such competent to affirm this instant affidavit.

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2. That, I am a law-abiding Citizen of India and very much respect the Constitution and Judicial System of India.
3. That in pursuance and in compliance of the order dated 03.09.2024 passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant Original Application this Counter Affidavit/Response is being filed by Respondent no. 2 of the Original Application.
4. That this Counter Affidavit/Response is being filed in compliance of the direction passed vide order dated 03.09.2024, the answering respondent would like to submit following facts and action which has been taken by the competent authority:-
  - a. The present Original Application No. 155/2025/EZ arises out of directions issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal in relation to pollution and rejuvenation of the Harmu River at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The matter pertains to discharge of untreated sewage, solid waste ingress, and encroachments adversely affecting the river ecosystem.
  - b. That the rejuvenation of Harmu River was earlier the subject matter of Original Application No. 92/2015/EZ before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zonal Bench at Kolkata, wherein directions were issued for construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and allied works. The matter was finally disposed of on 15.10.2020 with directions to Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) and Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) to

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monitor STP performance and ensure compliance with discharge norms.

A copy of the said order is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure – A.**

c. That the “Rejuvenation and Conservation of Harmu River” project was executed by Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd. (JUIDCO) through M/s Eagle Infra India Ltd., under agreement dated 24.02.2015.

- The project was completed on 31.10.2018.
- Operation & Maintenance (O&M) was carried out by the agency till 31.10.2023.
- Post expiry of O&M, responsibility for maintenance was to be formally taken over by RMC, with coordination from JUIDCO.

d. Current Status of STPs (as per JUIDCO report dated 09.06.2026) is as follows:-

- STP-01 (1.5 MLD), STP-02 (1.0 MLD), STP-04 (2.0 MLD) – Fully Operational.
- STP-05 (1.5 MLD), STP-06 (2.0 MLD), STP-07 (1.0 MLD), STP-08 (1.0 MLD) – Pumping sets under maintenance, targeted to be functional by 20.06.2026.
- STP-03 (1.5 MLD) – Incomplete due to stay order of Hon’ble High Court in W.P.(C) No. 4328/2016 (Pertaining to Land Dispute).

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A copy of the said report dated 09.06.2026 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure – B**.

e. The interim measures adopted by Ranchi Municipal Corporation as per its Letter No. 90/Sanitation dated 10.06.2026 is as follows:-

- Regular cleaning and desilting of drains connected to Harmu River.
- Installation of sieve screens at inlet points to prevent floating waste.
- Deployment of dedicated vehicles and manpower for river cleaning.
- Removal of encroachments and relocation of cattle sheds along the river corridor.
- Enforcement drives against households discharging wastewater directly into drains.
- Public awareness campaigns to discourage indiscriminate disposal of waste.

A copy of the said Letter No. 90/Sanitation dated 10.06.2026 is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure – C**.

f. The details of monitoring and coordination meetings held are as follows:-

- Water quality sampling across all 53 wards has been initiated, with reports being maintained for corrective action.



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- Coordination meetings between RMC and JUIDCO have been held, including on 18.03.2026, to expedite STP operability and formal takeover.
- An Urban River Management Plan (URMP) has been prepared with NIUA support under Namami Gange, with Ranchi Municipal Corporation leading implementation through a Multi-Stakeholder Working Group.

g. The Future Action Plan are as follows:-

- Commissioning of Badgai STP (Zone-1) is at an advanced stage, which will significantly reduce untreated sewage discharge.
- For Zones 2, 3, and 4, sewerage infrastructure is under planning and execution by JUIDCO, with UDHD and RMC extending necessary support.
- Regular encroachment removal drives, imposition of penalties, and awareness campaigns will continue.
- Periodic drain cleaning, desilting, and water quality monitoring will be sustained.

5. That this Counter Affidavit is being bona fide and in the interest of justice. It is therefore prayed that Your Lordships, may kindly be pleased to accept the instant Report.

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6. That the answering respondent seeks leave to file any further affidavit/affidavits in order to respond to new matters or as required, as per direction of the Hon'ble Tribunal.
  
7. I state that the statements contained in paragraphs nos. 1 to 3 are true to my knowledge, the statements contained in paragraph no. 4 is true to my information derived from the official records of the case, which I verily believe to be true and the rest is/are my respectful submissions before this Hon'ble Tribunal.

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VERIFICATION

I, SANTOSH SINGH ., son of R. SINGH, aged about 47 years years, occupation - Service, By Religion - HINDU., working for 'the office of Principal Secretary Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand having its office at 4<sup>th</sup> floor Project Building Dhurwa, Ranchi, Ranchi – 834004, Jharkhand is filing this instant Counter Affidavit on this the \_\_\_ day of June, 2026.

Date: 29.6.2026

Place: RANCHI

Identified by me:

Advocate

O.No- 5539

SANTOSH SINGH .  
Deponent  
संतोष सिंह  
रांशुका रांशुका  
नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग  
झारखण्ड, रांची

who is identified by Self (Known)  
I have satisfied my self by examining the deponent that  
he understands the contents of this affidavit which has  
been read by S. Singh me and  
I have read and explained which he acknowledges as to be  
correct Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi Pujhrajali  
Date 29/06/26 29/06/26  
Advocate Oath Commissioner

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Item No. 02

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
(Through Video Conferencing)**

Original Application No. 92/2015(EZ)

Anil Kumar Singh

Applicant

Versus

Chief Secretary, Government of  
Jharkhand & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 15.10.2020

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s): None

For Respondent(s): Ms. Aishwarya Rajyashree, Adv for  
Respondents No. 1 to 3, & 6  
Mr. Surendra Kumar, Adv for Respondents  
No. 4 & 5.

**ORDER**

1. By order dated 19.03.2020 and 26.08.2020, we had set out the entire records of the proceedings in relation to the case which was essentially mitigation of the pollution of Harmu at Ranchi, Jharkhand due to discharge of untreated sewage and waste water. On 26.08.2020 we had observed in view of the averments contained in paragraphs 4 to 10 of the affidavit filed by the Ranchi Municipal Corporation, all questions pertaining to projects relating to rejuvenation

and conservation of Harmu river appear to have been addressed. The tabular information *inter alia* revealed that works on as many as 9 STPs for treatment of sewage and waste water had been completed. This being most crucial factor for getting river Harmu made free of pollution and cleaned, we had, by order dated 26.08.2020, directed the State PCB to furnish information as to whether the discharge norms of the STPs were being maintained in accordance with the prescribed standards and also to furnish a report in respect of the quality of water of the river.

2. Affidavit filed by the State PCB in compliance of the above direction indicates that all parameters were being maintained except for BOD which was on the higher side. However, there is no information with regard to the quality of water of Harmu river which presumably may have been due to the report against BOD standards.
3. We, therefore, the State Pollution Control Board to take up this matter with the Ranchi Municipal Corporation monitor the performance of STPs to bring it within the prescribed standards of the parameters including BOD.
4. Since this is a matter that is required to be monitored by the State PCB being the competent regulatory authority, we

do not deem it necessary to keep this matter pending only for such residual work. We expect the State PCB and the Ranchi Municipal Corporation to act in accordance with law and remedy the situation at the earliest.

5. With the above directions, the O.A stands disposed off with no order as to cost.

S.P. Wangdi, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

15<sup>th</sup> October, 2020  
Original Application No. 92/2015(EZ)  
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## Annexure - B

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### JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)

JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001

E-Mail Id - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com

CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752



Letter no: JUIDCO/HARMU O&M/2381/2020 PART B - 2302.

Date: 09.06.2026

To,

Director, (SUDA)  
Urban Development and Housing Department,  
Govt. of Jharkhand.  
Ranchi, Jharkhand.

**Subject:** Submission of compliance report in OA No: 155/2025/EZ- Harmu River Rejuvenation.

**Ref:** Your letter no: 758, dated: 05.06.2026

Sir,

With reference to the above letter, regarding submission of compliance report in OA No: 155/2025/EZ concerning Harmu River rejuvenation, we would like to inform you that "Rejuvenation and conservation of Harmu river " project was executed by the agency M/s Eagle Infra India Ltd, Ulhasnagar, Thane, Maharashtra, vide agreement no: 06(JUIDCO), dated: 24.02.2015.

As per agreement, project includes 5 years of Operation and maintenance (OPEX) from the date of completion of project (CAPEX), hence, after completion of CAPEX (31.10.2018) agency has continued Operation and maintenance (OPEX) till 31.10.2023. Post completion of OPEX from agency, no extension has been granted to the agency to continue the O&M of the "Rejuvenation and conservation of Harmu river " project.

Following the completion of stipulated Operation and maintenance (O&M) period, repeated correspondence were made with the RMC, Ranchi, requesting the formal takeover of the project and the continuation of activities related to the O&M of the above said project.

On 18.03.2026, meeting was convened with officials from Ranchi municipal corporation (RMC) and JUIDCO Ltd. wherein it was agreed that electricity connections be provided to all sewerage treatment plants (STPs) at the earliest and all STPs will be made operational and further RMC agreed to take over and assume responsibility for the STPs after the completion of electrical maintenance and the formal handover process.

After persistent follow up and repeated request over a considerable period of time, the agency agreed and commenced the electrical maintenance work, which is at verge of completion.

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In response to your request for a detailed and verifiable status report, the requisite information is submitted hereunder for kind consideration.

1) Status of all STPs:

S.NO	STP( PHYTORID TECHNOLOGY)	CAPACITY	OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE	TIMELINE
01	STP-01	1.50 MLD	OPERATIONAL	
02	STP-02	1.0 MLD	OPERATIONAL	
03	STP-04	2.0 MLD	OPERATIONAL	
04	STP-05	1.50 MLD	Pumping set under maintenance	WILL BE FUNCTIONAL TILL 20.06.2026
05	STP-06	2.0 MLD	Pumping set under maintenance	
06	STP-07	1.0 MLD	Pumping set under maintenance	
07	STP-08	1.0 MLD	Pumping set under maintenance	

2) All STP's based on Phytorid technology are being made fully functional again and will cater the treatment of sewer upto 10 MLD .New discharge point has not been intercepted in previous scope of work.

3) Several joint site visit have been carried out, during which Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) has taken proactive measures to prevent the ingress of solid waste into the river by providing screens at the inlet points. In addition, regular river bed cleaning activities have been undertaken on routine basis.

4) Since, the contractual five year Operation and Maintenance (O&M) period was completed by the agency on 31.10.2023 in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. However, due to absence of a formal takeover and arrangement for continued O&M thereafter, proper monitoring and maintenance of the project remained inadequate, resulting in a significant gap in the effective supervision and water quality testing and upkeep of the project assets.

5) Following the completion of electrical maintenance work and formal handover process, RMC, Ranchi shall take over the project and be responsible for its on-going operation and maintenance and monitoring.

Yours faithfully,

(B.K. Roy)

Project Director (Technical)  
Juidco Ltd.



Annexure - C  
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**OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI**

(SANITATION SECTION)

KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN – 834001

e-mail: - [support@ranchimunicipal.com](mailto:support@ranchimunicipal.com)

Letter No. 790/Sanitation

Date. 10/06/2026

From,

**Municipal Commissioner**  
Ranchi Municipal Corporation, Ranchi

To,

**The Director**  
State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), Ranchi, Jharkhand.

**Subject: Submission of information in connection with OA No. 155/2025/EZ – Harmu River Rejuvenation.**

**Reference: Letter No. SUDA/NGT/OA155of2025/EZ/63/2026/759 dated 05.06.2026.**

Sir,

Kindly refer to the letter cited above regarding submission of a compliance report before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in connection with OA No. 155/2025/EZ pertaining to Harmu River Rejuvenation.

In this regard, point-wise information available with Ranchi Municipal Corporation is furnished below:

- **Present status of all STPs associated with Harmu River, including capacity, operational performance, and timelines for making them fully functional.**

The aforesaid information pertains to the Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and allied infrastructure being executed and maintained by JUIDCO. Accordingly, JUIDCO has been requested vide Letter No. 787/Sanitation dated 09.06.2026 to furnish the requisite information on priority basis. The same shall be submitted immediately upon receipt.

- **Steps taken to prevent discharge of untreated sewage, including interim measures adopted.**

Ranchi Municipal Corporation is undertaking regular cleaning and desilting of drains connected to the Harmu River and carrying out periodic field inspections to identify locations where untreated sewage is entering the river. As an interim measure, sieve screens are being installed at few identified inlet points to prevent the flow of floating waste, plastics and other solid materials into the river.

In addition, dedicated vehicles and manpower have been deployed exclusively for the cleaning of the Harmu River. Regular river-cleaning operations are being undertaken to remove floating waste, accumulated garbage and other pollutants from the river channel, thereby improving its overall perception cleanliness and environmental condition.

Further, enforcement drives are being undertaken to keep the river corridor free from encroachments and activities contributing to pollution. During inspections, households and

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## OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI

{SANITATION SECTION}

KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN – 834001

e-mail: - [support@ranchimunicipal.com](mailto:support@ranchimunicipal.com)

establishments found discharging wastewater directly into drains leading to the Harmu River are being identified and appropriate action, including imposition of penalties, is being taken as per applicable provisions. Unauthorized structures and encroachments affecting the river ecosystem are also being removed. Special attention is being given to the removal and relocation of cattle sheds situated along the river and drain network so as to prevent the discharge of cattle waste and slurry into drains ultimately flowing into the Harmu River.

Further, the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Badgai is presently at an advanced stage of being fully functional. Upon commissioning of the STP, sewage generated from the catchment area falling under Zone-1 shall be directly diverted through the sewerage network to the STP for treatment, thereby significantly reducing the discharge of untreated sewage into the Harmu River. For the remaining catchment areas pertaining to Zones 2, 3 and 4, planning and execution of the requisite sewerage infrastructure and sewage diversion arrangements are being undertaken by JUIDCO. Ranchi Municipal Corporation is extending necessary support and coordination for implementation of these measures.

Further, public awareness campaigns are being conducted from time to time to discourage indiscriminate disposal of municipal solid waste into drains and water bodies. Strict monitoring is also being undertaken to prevent activities contributing to river pollution and to ensure better environmental management of the Harmu River.

- **Coordination between RMC and JUIDCO in implementing remedial measures under the rejuvenation project.**

Ranchi Municipal Corporation is extending necessary support and coordination to JUIDCO in implementation of the Harmu River Rejuvenation Project. Regular communication and coordination are being maintained for resolution of field-level issues and facilitation of project-related activities as and when required.

Further, an **Urban River Management Plan (URMP)** for Ranchi has been prepared with the support of the **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** under the aegis of the **Namami Gange Programme**. Ranchi Municipal Corporation is leading the implementation and coordination of the said initiative through a **Multi-Stakeholder Working Group (MSWG)** comprising representatives from various stakeholder departments and agencies, including JUIDCO. The platform facilitates inter-agency coordination, collaborative planning, and convergence of efforts for effective river rejuvenation, pollution abatement, and sustainable river management.

- **Details of monitoring, water quality testing, and any corrective actions initiated in compliance with Tribunal directions.**

In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and as part of its public health and environmental monitoring activities, Ranchi Municipal Corporation has undertaken water quality sampling from all 53 wards within its jurisdiction. The collected samples of drinking water sources have been tested through the designated laboratory and the analysis reports are being maintained for monitoring and corrective action purposes.

Regular inspections and monitoring are being undertaken to identify pollution hotspots and unauthorized discharge points along the Harmu River. Based on the findings, necessary



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## OFFICE OF THE RANCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RANCHI

{SANITATION SECTION}

KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, PIN – 834001

e-mail: - [support@ranchimunicipal.com](mailto:support@ranchimunicipal.com)

corrective measures and coordinated actions with concerned agencies are being taken to reduce pollution load and improve the overall environmental condition of the river.

• **Future action plan with clear timelines for completion of pending works.**

Ranchi Municipal Corporation has adopted a multi-pronged approach for reducing pollution load in the Harmu River and ensuring long-term environmental improvement. As an immediate measure, installation of sieve screens at identified inlet points is being undertaken to prevent entry of floating waste and other solid materials into the river.

Further, upon commissioning of the Badgai STP, sewage generated from the catchment area under Zone-1 shall be diverted through the sewerage network to the STP for treatment, thereby eliminating direct discharge of untreated sewage from the said zone into the Harmu River to a large extent. The timelines for commissioning and operationalization of the STP are being monitored in coordination with JUIDCO. Meanwhile, regular encroachment removal drives and imposition of penalties against polluting activities are being undertaken as short-term measures to protect the river ecosystem.

With regard to Zones 2, 3 and 4, JUIDCO is in the process of planning and implementing the necessary sewerage infrastructure and sewage diversion arrangements. Ranchi Municipal Corporation shall continue to extend all necessary support and coordination to facilitate timely completion of the works.

Simultaneously, Ranchi Municipal Corporation shall continue periodic drain cleaning, desilting operations, removal of solid waste from vulnerable locations, installation of sieves at identified discharge points, public awareness activities, and regular monitoring of water quality parameters. Water quality sampling of drinking water sources across all 53 wards shall also be continued at regular intervals for assessment and corrective action, wherever required.

The above measures are expected to substantially reduce pollution entering the Harmu River and contribute towards compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.

This is submitted for your kind information and consideration.

  
10.06.2016  
Municipal Commissioner  
Ranchi Municipal Corporation



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**Re: O.A No. 155/2025/EZ (Rajeev Kumar -Vs- State of Jharkhand & Ors.)**

1 message

**Aishwarya Rajyashree** <advaish.hc@gmail.com>

30 June 2026 at 13:00

To: Satyendra Singh &lt;snsingh1187@gmail.com&gt;, surendra kumar &lt;surendra\_kr15@rediffmail.com&gt;, ceo@ranchimunicipal.com

Sir,  
Please find attached herewith the copy of Counter Affidavit filed before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Eastern Zonal Bench at Kolkata in the abovecaptioned matter by Respondent No. 1 & 2, for your reference.  
Thanking you.

Regards,  
Aishwarya Rajyashree  
Advocate.

**Counter Affidavit by UDHD.pdf**

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