

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

EXECUTION APPLICATION NO. 27 OF 2023

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 561 OF 2022

IN THE MATTER OF:

SHASHIKANTH PUROHIT

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & ORS.

...RESPONDENT(S)

INDEX

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
1.	Additional affidavit on behalf of the Execution Applicant.	1-6
2.	ANNEXURE A-1 (Colly): Copy of the photographs of the latest conditions of the Yamunotri Trek.	7-9
3.	ANNEXURE A-2(Colly): Copy of the photographs of the latest conditions of the Hemkund Sahib Trek.	10
4.	Proof of Service	11

FILED BY

DELHI

DATED: 12.11.2024

Esha Dutta

Shaalini

[ESHA DUTTA, SHAALINI AGRAWAL]

ADVOCATES FOR THE APPLICANT

Enrol No. D/2467/2013; UP10022/21

A-2, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110049

Ph: 9818448799, 9984940990

eshadutta7@gmail.com, shaaliniagrawal04@gmail.com

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
EXECUTION APPLICATION NO. 27 OF 2023
IN
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 561 OF 2022**

IN THE MATTER OF:
SHASHIKANTH PUROHIT

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

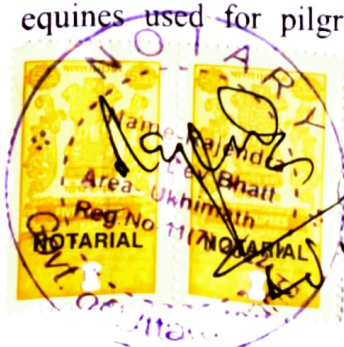
STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & ORS.

...RESPONDENT(S)

**ADDITIONAL AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTION
APPLICANT.**

I, Shashikanth Purohit, S/o Shri Rajesh Purohit, aged about 25 years, R/o 901, Nakshatra Co-operative Society, Shailendra Nagar, Dahisar (East), Mumbai – 400068 [Presently in Rudraprayag], do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am the Execution Applicant (hereinafter referred as '*the Applicant*') in the Execution Application and is well conversant with the facts of the case and competent to affirm the present affidavit.
2. That the Applicant is a dedicated animal welfare worker contributing towards the welfare and dignity of animals. The Applicant has been working to protect the rights and welfare of animals for the last seven years and has tremendous experience in the field of animal welfare.
3. That the Applicant visited *Hemkund Sahib Trek* between 15.09.2024 to 18.09.2024 and *Yamunotri Trek* between 20.09.2024 and 21.09.2024 to assess the conditions of equines used for pilgrimage purposes on these routes. During the visits, the



②
 Jan 12/2024 - 27/09/2024
 12/09/2024

[Handwritten Signature]

Applicant made the following observations, which the Applicant seeks to place before this Hon'ble Tribunal vide the present additional affidavit:

a. Yamunotri Trek (20.09.2024- 21.09.2024)

The Applicant made the following observations along this 5 km trek, which are as follows:

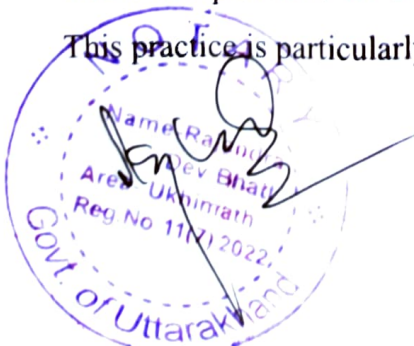
i. Overcrowding along the trek:

- The Applicant visited the Yamunotri trek in September 2024 that is an off-peak month. Despite being an off-peak month, severe vehicular traffic jams extending to more than 3 hours could be seen primarily because of heavy vehicles/buses being allowed to ply along the narrow road leading to Yamunotri base camp.
- Excessive numbers of equines, *palkis* and *kandis* were the major reasons for traffic jam and stampede-like situation on the narrow trekking route, causing distress amongst the pilgrims as also the equines.

ii. Absence of proper waste disposal:

- Five waste bins have been placed along the trekking route. However, it is important to note that the volume of waste generated far exceeds the capacity of the bins, resulting in waste being dumped in locations, such as the valley and river.
- It is further submitted that there were no dedicated dung collection bins along the trekking route. Most of the dung, along with unattended plastic waste, was either dumped into the river or collected in equine shelters or near the valley.

This practice is particularly harmful, as the area is an *eco-sensitive zone*.



②

[Handwritten signature]

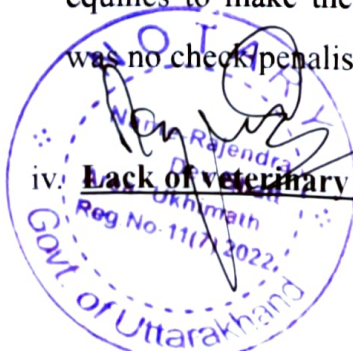
- Moreover, no dedicated bins for waste segregation or for collecting dung were observed along the trek. Further, there was no waste compressor available along the entire trek to handle/compress plastic waste.

Copy of the photographs of the latest conditions of the Yamunotri Trek have been annexed herewith as **Annexure A-1(Colly)**.

iii. **Condition of equines:**

- Based on the observation, approximately 30 or more equines on the trek were found to be untagged and many more equines were not registered.
- Despite the presence of a checkpoint and multiple government officials along the trek, many equines were plying untagged and unregistered. This is primarily because the officials' main focus is on crowd control rather than verifying the authenticity of the equine tags.
- Through interviews with four equine handlers and on-site observations, it was determined that most of the equines on the trek are used for more than *two trips per day*, due to which animals often collapse.
- It was further observed that equine owners are generally unaware of proper animal welfare practices, which include meeting the basic needs of the animals, such as access to warm water, limiting the number of trips per day, ensuring regular medical check-ups, and providing a balanced diet required for the equines' well-being.
- Several equine handlers/owners were seen resorting to beating/prodding at the equines to make them move faster and complete multiple trips per day. There was no check/penalisation by the officials present along the trek.

iv. **Lack of veterinary facilities:**



5

S. P. Singh

- There was no veterinary facility/infirmarary/dispensary/veterinarian available along the trek.

v. **Lack of drinking water facility:**

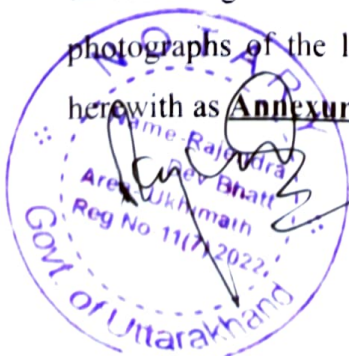
Another significant observation along the trek was the lack of adequate water for the equines. It was noted that only one water source was available at a single location along the trek. Furthermore, the water was neither clean nor warm.

b. **Hemkund Sahib Trek (15.09.2024-18.09.2024)**

The Applicant made the following observations along this trek, which begins at the base village of Pulna and ends at Hemkund Sahib.

i. **Absence of proper waste disposal:**

- Despite the presence of numerous sweepers along the trek, the volume of waste generated far exceeds the rate of disposal. Although the sweepers clean the route daily, they are unable to dispose of the waste effectively.
- Approximately 6 to 8 waste bins were located along the trek; however, the volume of waste generated far exceeds the capacity of these bins, leading to the disposal of excess waste at various locations along the trek causing massive pollution.
- Additionally, there are no dedicated dung collection bins along the trekking route, except at Ghangharia village. However, the dung waste bin at Ghangharia is not being properly utilized, as plastic and biowaste are not segregated, undermining the intended purpose of the dung collection bin. Copy of the photographs of the latest conditions of the Hemkund Trek have been annexed herewith as **Annexure A-2 (Colly)**.



ii. Condition of equines:

- More than twenty unregistered equines used for pilgrimage purposes were observed between Village Pulna and Village Ghangria, along the initial 9 km of the trek. This lack of registration primarily results from the absence of a designated government body overseeing equine transport operations on the route. Currently, the tagging process is monitored by an NGO, the Eco Development Committee/EDC; however, their management of tag verification has been inadequate.
- Equines are consistently used for multiple trips per day, imposing additional strain and pressure on the animals due to which animals often collapse.

iii. Lack of Veterinary Facilities:

- There is a notable lack of veterinary facilities along the trek, with only one dispensary available at the end of the first section, in Ghangharia village, which is located 9 kms from the base point i.e., village Pulna. No veterinarians were present to attend to the sick and injured equines, leading to increased instances of self medication by owners.
- Further, several equines were observed with injuries during the trek.

iv. Lack of drinking water facilities for the equines:

- Water availability along the trek was insufficient, with only four to six designated locations. Moreover, the water at these locations was neither clean nor warm enough for feeding the equines.

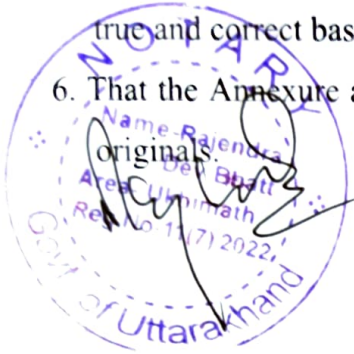


(Handwritten signature)

(Handwritten signature)

- 4. That the above observations depict an urgent need to put into place a scientifically assessed limit on the number of pilgrims and equines *vis-a-vis* the infrastructure/carrying capacity of the treks.
- 5. That the Applicant has read and understood the contents of the accompanying affidavit which have been drafted upon the Applicant's direction and the same are true and correct based on records and the Applicant's observation.

6. That the Annexure annexed with the Affidavit are the true copies of their respective originals.



[Handwritten Signature]

DEPONENT

Verified at Ukhimath on this 11 day of November 2024 that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct based on records and my observations. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

The Deponent Sri Shaffi Karot
 S/o Rajendra Parthiv Vill. Damiser
 Solemnly affirm and declare. Mumberi **DEPONENT**

[Handwritten Signature]
 Rajendra Dev Bhatt
 Advocate/Notary
 Ukhimath

[Handwritten Signature]
 11/11/2024



1. Plastic collected and burned along the track



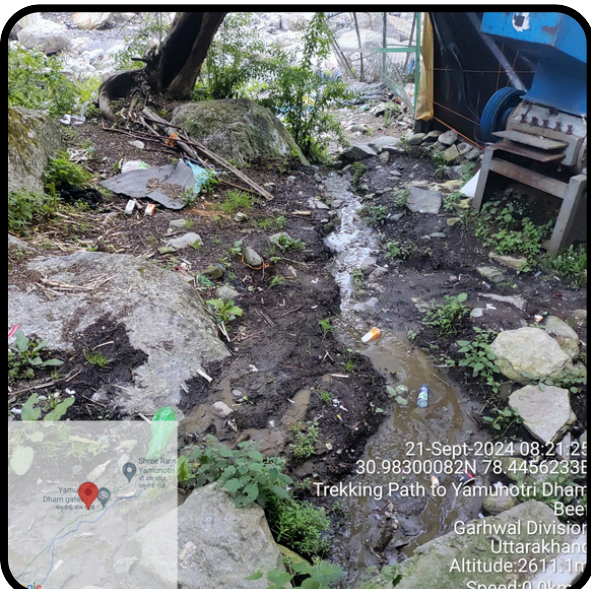
2. Dung and Waste water let out towards the river



3. Dung from trekking path pushed off the side towards forest



4. Dung from trekking path pushed off the side towards forest



5. Plastic and waste water being let into Yamuna River



6. Waste water from public toilets being let into Yamuna river source



1. Overcrowding and jam on yatra route



2. Congestion on yatra trek due to palki and kandi overcrowding



3. Yatri stuck on route due to excessive crowding



4. Excessive equines overcrowding along the yatra route



5. Equines parked along the yatra route causing bottleneck situation



6. Equine shed at Yamunotri temple overcrowded and cramped due to lack of space

Pilgrims' rush at Char Dham leads to chaos, two lives lost

Pankul Sharma / TNN / Updated: May 12, 2024, 03:36 IST

SHARE PRINT AA FOLLOW US

A large number of pilgrims faced challenges at Char Dham shrines in Dehradun due to overcrowding and traffic jams. Two pilgrims lost their lives, and there were protests and conflicts on the opening day of the pilgrimage season. Registration numbers for the pilgrimage have exceeded 2.3 million, with Kedarnath recordin ... [Read More](#)



DEHRADUN: A huge crowd of pilgrims was seen at the Char Dham shrines on Saturday, a day after the yatra to the Himalayan temples began. Maximum rush was at Yamunotri -- around 45,000 pilgrims were reported at the small shrine town on the first day, making it difficult for people to even walk the narrow stretch leading to the temple. Similar scenes were witnessed at Kedarnath, too, where around 30,000 people turned up on day

one.

After Yamunotri pilgrim surge, cops ask people to avoid town for 'a day'

Abhyudaya Kotnala, Kalyan Das & Pankul Sharma / TNN / Updated: May 13, 2024, 09:36 IST

SHARE PRINT AA FOLLOW US

Pilgrim influx overwhelms Yamunotri's capacity during Char Dham yatra, prompting police to urge visit delays. Challenges in crowd management highlighted, with environmental concerns leading to a ban on flowing sarees in Bhagirathi river at Gangotri.



People packed tightly on the narrow road leading to the temple

DEHRADUN/UTTARKASHI: After an estimated 45,000 pilgrims turned up on the first day of the Char Dham yatra at Yamunotri, which has a carrying capacity of around 4,000 per day, police appealed to pilgrims to avoid the town for "at least a day as pilgrims meeting the capacity have already reached there." Photos and videos of people packed tightly on the narrow approach road leading to the temple had been widely circulated online on Saturday, highlighting the gov't's ineffectiveness in crowd management.



1. Dung disposed out of stables without any processing



2. Plastic waste mixed with equine dung disposed in open



3. Illegal equine establishments polluting the green area at Ghangariya



4. Muck and mud mixed with dung around equine establishments



5. Plastic and waste water being out into grasslands



6. Waste water and dung from equine sheds at Ghangariya polluting surrounding



Shaalini Agrawal <shaaliniagrawal04@gmail.com>

Service of additional affidavit being filed in Execution Application No.27/2023 filed in Original Application No. 561/2022 titled 'Urvashi Shobhna Kachari V/s. Union of India & Ors.'

Shaalini Agrawal <shaaliniagrawal04@gmail.com>

12 November 2024 at 11:19

To: rtpdep123@gmail.com, secy-ah-ua@nic.in, chiefsecyuk@gmail.com, cs-uttarakhand@nic.in, secy-for-ua@nic.in, msukpcb@yahoo.com, dm-rud-ua@nic.in, dm-utt-ua@nic.in

Cc: Esha Dutta <eshadutta7@gmail.com>, Siddharth Pandey <siddharth.pandey17@gmail.com>, sunny.purohit06@gmail.com

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached the additional affidavit being filed by the Applicant in Execution Application No.27/2023 in Original Application No. 561/2022 titled 'Urvashi Shobhna Kachari V/s. Union of India & Ors.'

This is for your kind information, notice, necessary action and constitutes service of the document.

Regards,
Shaalini Agrawal
Advocate

 **Addln Affidavit for service.pdf**
7360K