

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 240 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini & Ors.

... APPLICANTS

VERSUS

Union of India & Ors.

... RESPONDENTS

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENT

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THROUGH

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SANJANA SRIKUMAR



SANJANA GRACE THOMAS

Place: Delhi

Dated: 08.09.2025

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI****ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 240 OF 2024****IN THE MATTER OF:**

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**INFORMATION REGARDING GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH RESEARCH
INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS****MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That the above titled Application has been filed raising the grievance of severe health impacts upon the residents of the critically polluted district of Sonbhadra, which has been the subject matter of several judgments of the Ld. Tribunal, including concerns due to prolonged exposure to heavy metals such as mercury, lead, chromium, nickel and cadmium.
2. That vide order dated 08.07.2025, the Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to note the stand of the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "**UPPCB**") that AIIMS Bhopal has been granted approval in principle to conduct a study titled "Health related effects of air and water pollution due to operation of thermal power plant and ash generating industries in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh."
3. That it has further come to the knowledge of the Applicant that another study is simultaneously underway at AIIMS Bhopal, in the Department of Translational

Medicine, titled "Adverse health effects of fly ash exposure on animals in Sonbhadra - implications for human health."

4. That in the context of the aforesaid studies, it is imperative to bring to notice the National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research and Health Research involving Human Participants, 2017 (hereinafter referred to as "**the Guidelines**"), framed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (hereinafter referred to as "**ICMR**"), which are paramount.

a. That Section 5.0 of the Guidelines mandates a process of informed consent. The contents of such informed consent, as stipulated in Box 5.1 of the Guidelines, include but are not limited to the following:

- i. Statement mentioning that the activity is research;
- ii. Purpose and methods in simple language;
- iii. Expected duration and frequency of participation, estimated enrolment, type of data collection and methods;
- iv. Reasonably expected benefits to participants/community/others;
- v. Foreseeable risks, discomfort, or inconvenience to the participant;
- vi. Extent and limits of confidentiality;
- vii. Payment/reimbursement for participation, if any;
- viii. Free treatment/compensation for research-related injury;
- ix. Freedom of individual to participate or to withdraw without penalty or loss of benefits;
- x. Identity and contact details of the research team with addresses and phone numbers.

And, wherever applicable:

- i. Any alternative procedures or courses of treatment that may be as advantageous to the participant as the ones to which she/he is going to be subjected;
- ii. Disclosure regarding research if it leads to any stigmatizing conditions;
- iii. Insurance coverage, if any;

- iv. Foreseeable extent of information on possible current and future uses of biological data;
 - v. Period of storage of sample data;
 - vi. Sharing of the data;
 - vii. Right to prevent use of her/his biological sample and related data at any time during or after the conduct of research;
 - viii. Risk of discovery of biologically sensitive information;
 - ix. Post-research plan/benefit sharing if data leads to commercialization;
 - x. Publication plan, if any.
- b. Section 2.10 of the Guidelines further mandates community engagement, requiring researchers to involve community members in the ethical oversight of studies, including by inviting local representatives as special invitees in the deliberations of the Ethics Committee.
5. That, in light of the above, and as a community-based organization, the Applicant has sent a representation dated 27.08.2025 to AIIMS Bhopal, requesting that they:
- a. Provide to the residents of Sonbhadra who are prospective participants, accessible and comprehensive information about the research purpose, scope, range, pollutants to be studied, health effects to be observed, time period of the study, methodology, sampling protocols, and tests to be undertaken;
 - b. Ensure strict compliance with the informed-consent process as per ICMR Guidelines;
 - c. Undertake community engagement in terms of the Guidelines, including participation of community members in the Ethics Committee deliberations; and
 - d. Submit a copy with details of the research purpose, research scope, range, as well as research methodology to the Hon'ble Tribunal, preferably before the next date of hearing, i.e., 09.09.2025.

6. That the Applicant firmly believes that such norms are necessary to ensure that the studies are undertaken in accordance with ethical standards, with full transparency and active involvement of the affected community.

THROUGH



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Dated: 8.9.25



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SANJANA GRACE THOMAS



Tara Kurien <tara@isaacandjacob.com>

Service of Additional Document on behalf of Applicant in Original Application No. 240/2024[Singrauli Pradooshan Mukti Vahini & Ors. vs. Union of India & Ors.]

1 message

Tara Kurien <tara@isaacandjacob.com>

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 12:23 PM

To: Pradeep Misra <pradeepmisra@yahoo.com>, "ARS CHAUHAN & CO." <arschauhan.co@gmail.com>, secy-moef@nic.in, ccb.cpcb@nic.in, csup@nic.in, chairman@uppcb.in, bhanwar jadon <bhanwar09jadon@gmail.com>

Cc: Srishti Agnihotri <srishtiagnihotriofficial@gmail.com>, Sanjana Thomas <sanjana@isaacandjacob.com>, Sanjana Srikumar <srikumar.sanjana@gmail.com>

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Srishti Agnihotri, Advocate for the Applicant in the above-titled matter. Please see attached a copy of the Additional Document filed by the Applicant. Kindly treat this as due service of the same.

Best Regards,
Tara Elizabeth Kurien
Advocate

**Service-Additional Document.pdf**

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