

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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1044 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

NEWS ITEM APPEARING IN NEWS18 DATED 25.06.2024
TITLED “आद गंगा गोमती खुद बूंद-बूंद पानी के िलए तड़प रही, लोगों
ने पुछा – अभी मछिलयाँ मर रहीं, आगे ँा होगा?”

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THROUGH

DATE: 31.10.2024

PLACE: NEW DELHI



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पूछा-अभी मछलियां मर रही, आगे क्या होगा?"**

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 2, U.P.
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

I, ShashiVindkar, aged about 41 Year S/o Shri Lala Ram, do hereby
solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I am Regional Officer of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (hereinafter "UPPCB") Varanasi. I say that I am fully conversant with the facts of the case and am competent and authorised to swear the present Affidavit.
2. That in compliance with the order dated 05.08.2024 passed by The Hon'ble Tribunal in the captioned matter, a joint team of CPCB, UPPCB and District Administration, Jaunpur has carried out site visit on 19.09.2024 for monitoring water quality of River Gomti and drains with gradient towards the river in the area namely Sonar Mandi and Hanuman Ghat of Jaunpur city. A true copy of the Joint Inspection Report is annexed herewith and marked as **Annexure R2/1.**

Su
(R2)

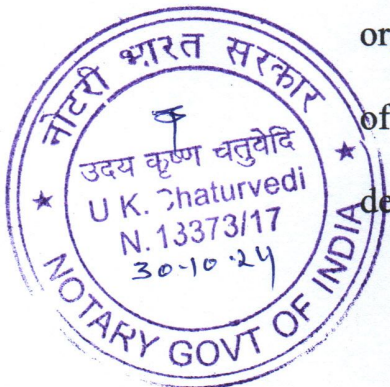


3. That the Joint Inspection report has concluded as follows:

a) That high water level and free flow was observed in River Gomti and no fish mortality was noticed. No work regarding silver refining and use of any chemical was found in the concerned area.

b) That only three waste water drains were found in the area. Two of these drains, although not priority drains, were found directly discharging into the left bank of river Gomti and samples collected showed higher BOD and colour as compared to general discharge standards which is increasing the pollution load of river. Presence of heavy metals in traces or below detection level indicates that the discharge is from domestic sources only. As these drains are very small, they shall be tapped and diverted to the existing STP. Third drain in Sonar Mandi is found tapped and diverted to STP preventing discharge of untreated waste water in river Gomti and hence not impacting river water quality in any way.

c) That river water quality in the study region was found unfit for organised outdoor bathing with slight deterioration downstream of drain discharge points. No heavy metals, except iron, were detected in the river water, suggesting industrial discharge.



[Signature]
(RO)

d) That overall, no fish mortality between Katghara Olandganj to Shastri Bridge at Jaunpur city in River Gomti was observed during the visit and the drains in the area around Sonar Mandi are not showing any industrial characteristics and the same is reflected in the river water quality.

4. That the above response of Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board is submitted before The Hon'ble Tribunal for kind perusal and consideration please.



[Signature]
DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at Varanasi UP on this 30 day of October, 2024 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

[Signature]
DEPONENT

Notarialis
1. दस्तावेज Document
2. तिथि / Registration
N/A - Affidavit
3. क्र. / Sr. No. 16358
3-दिनांक/Date 30-10-24
4. स्थान/Date
द्वारा/By *[Signature]*
30-10-24



1.0 Background

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, *suo-moto* registered the original application (OA) number 1044/2024 on the basis of the news item titled "आदि गंगा गोमती खुद बूंद-बूंद पानी के लिए तड़प रही, लोगों ने पुछा - अभी मछलियाँ मर रहीं, आगे क्या होगा?" appearing in News18 dated 25.06.2024.

The news item in the referred Hon'ble NGT Order raises significant issue relating to compliance of the environmental norms, especially compliance of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the Hon'ble tribunal has impleaded the following as respondents in the matter:

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), through its Regional Office, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and District Magistrate, Jaunpur

In compliance of the referenced order of Hon'ble NGT, a joint team of CPCB, UPPCB and District Administration, Jaunpur carried out visit for monitoring of water quality of River Gomti and drains with gradient towards the river in the area namely Sonar Mandi and Hanuman Ghat of Jaunpur city on 19.09.2024. Team also visited the area around the river bank from U/s to D/s of Hanuman Ghat to gather factual status of wastewater sources.

2.0 Objectives

- I. Field survey of Hanuman Ghat and Sonar Mandi to identify wastewater sources and their status.
- II. Quantification and characterization of drains with gradient towards River Gomti
- III. Water Quality monitoring of River Gomti in the stretch under study.

3.0 Study of the area with special reference to above objectives:

3.1 Methodology: Methodology adopted for the study is as under:

- (i) **Field visit:** The area of concern along R. Gomti was surveyed and drains location identified with reference to water quality of the river.
- (ii) **Sampling:** Two untapped drains were identified and samples were collected from these two drains before confluence with R. Gomti. Sample from the tapped drain was also collected from the collection sump. Similarly, four river locations were identified for sample collection. Sampling was carried out by joint team of officials from CPCB and UPPCB. All the samples were analysed at CPCB Regional Directorate, Lucknow.
- (iii) **Laboratory work:** General parameters (Colour, pH, TSS, NH₃-N, Nitrate, DO, BOD, COD, bacteriological parameters (Total coliforms (TC) and trace/heavy metals were analysed in the laboratory.

4.0 Survey of the area

Hanuman Ghat, Bajrang Ghat and Sonar Mandi area were visited. It was observed that along with general market/stores, very small goldsmith shops were also operating in the area. As per interaction with local people and site observation, no activities of refining silver by using chemicals observed in the area. Wastewater generated from households and shops in the area are connected to the main drain of Sonar Mandi. Sonar Mandi drain is tapped to Hanuman Ghat SPS and diverted to 30 MLD STP at Pachahatiya preventing discharge of wastewater into R. Gomti from Sonar Mandi area.

Due to monsoon season during survey, the water level of the river was high, with high flow and water current. According to local residents, the water level of river drops significantly post monsoon and remains low in the summer season, resulting in reduced flow. During the visit, the joint team did not observe any harmful impacts on the river, nor were there any signs of fish mortality.

5.0 Quantification and characterization of wastewater sources&drains

Three drains having gradient towards the river were found in the area around Hanuman Ghat. As presented in Pic. 1 & Table 1, two drains (Photo 1 & 2) in U/s of Hanuman Ghat at Bajrang ghat were found discharging in to the river while one drain in Sonar Mandi (Photo 3) was found tapped to Hanuman Ghat SPS (Photo 4) and diverted to 30 MLD STP at Pachahatiya.



Pic. 1: Schematic presentation of three drains and four river locations around Hanuman Ghat, R. Gomti in Jaunpur (image is based on the captured coordinates of visited area)

Table 1: Drains with gradient towards River Gomti in area around Hanuman Ghat, Jaunpur

S. No.	Drain	Sampling point coordinates	Flow (m ³ /hr)	Landmark	Remarks
1.	Bajrang Ghat Drain 1	25.750580 82.682451	4	U/s of Shahipul	Untapped & approx. 250 m U/s of Sahipul
2.	Bajrang Ghat Drain 2	25.750280 82.682619	6.6	U/s of Shahipul	Untapped & approx. 230 m U/s of Sahipul
3.	Hanuman Ghat Drain	25.749241 82.686024 (IPS Hanuman Ghat)	Tapped	Hanuman Ghat	Tapped & diverted to STP at Pachahatiya. Opposite of Gopi Ghat b/w Shahipul & Sadbhavna Bridge

Photographs of drains (sampling/discharge & tapping/diversion points)





Although, the drain at Hanuman Ghat in Sonar Mandi was found tapped, sample was collected to analyse the characteristics of wastewater which is diverted to STP for treatment. Samples from the two untapped drains were also collected during visit and flow was also determined. Drains were having lean flow and as per instantaneous discharge during visit, both drains were contributing 10.6 m³/hr (extrapolated to 0.254 MLD) of wastewater to the river. The results of samples collected from the drains are tabulated (Table-2) below-

Table 2: Wastewater quality of one tapped drain & two untapped drains discharging in to R. Gomti

S. No.	Parameter	Unit	Sampling location			
			BajrangGhat Drain 1	BajrangGhat Drain 2	Hanuman Ghat Drain	General discharge standards
1	pH	--	7.42	6.91	7.30	5.5-9.0
2	Colour	Hazen	75	50	60	50
3	SS	mg/L	49.8	25.2	107	100
4	TDS	mg/L	2073	1349	2269	--
5	Chloride	mg/L	387	249	60.1	--
6	Sulphate	mg/L	373	256	340	--
7	Total P	mg/L	1.69	0.626	1.15	--
8	Nitrate as N	mg/L	1.017	1.012	1.019	10
9	Ammonium Nitrogen	mg/L	46.2	27.2	38.4	50
10	COD	mg/L	180	120	171	250
11	BOD	mg/L	68.0	35.3	61.0	30
12	Total Cr.	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--
13	Copper (Cu)	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	--

14	Cadmium (Cd)	mg/L	<0.01	0.0299	0.0378	--
15	Lead (Pb)	mg/L	<0.09	<0.09	<0.09	--
16	Iron (Fe)	mg/L	0.1241	<0.05	2.1288	--
17	Nickel (Ni)	mg/L	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	--
18	Zinc (Zn)	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	0.1055	--

The drains at Bajrang Ghat are not priority drains (combined flow of both drains is less than 1 MLD) nevertheless, samples were collected as the drains were untapped and found discharging in to the river. Analysis of samples indicates the characteristics of domestic drain. Colour and BOD of the Bajrang Ghat drain 1 is higher than the standards while Bajrang Ghat drain 2 is having higher BOD only. This exceedance w.r.t. the general discharge standards implies that the drains shall be tapped and diverted to prevent discharge of untreated wastewater to R. Gomti. Characteristic of drain at Hanuman Ghat (tapped and diverted) is similar to above mentioned drains, except SS (higher than Bajrang ghat drains) and chloride (lower than Bajrang ghat drains). Total chromium, copper, lead and nickel are not detected in any drain. Cadmium and iron is not detected in Bajrang Ghat drain 1 and Bajrang Ghat drain 2 respectively while zinc is not detected in both these drains.

6.0 Water quality of R. Gomti

Stretch of R. Gomti in the area of concern was surveyed and four sampling points were identified. As presented in Pic. 1 and Table 3, two of the four points are located at the opposite ends of Hanuman Ghat, while the other two points are situated U/s and D/s of Hanuman Ghat.

Table 3: Four sampling points at R. Gomti

S. No.	Sampling point	GPS Coordinates	Landmark	Remarks
1.	Katghara Olandganj	25.75125000 82.67583333	U/s of Hanuman ghat	Approx. 950 m U/s of Sahipul
2.	Shahipul	25.749944 82.684613	One end of Hanuman Ghat	In front of Sonar Mandi and near to Hanuman Ghat sewage pumping station
3.	Sadbhavna Bridge	25.747789 82.686759	Other end of Hanuman Ghat	Opposite of Navdurga Visarjan Ghat
4.	Shastri Bridge	25.744063 82.690114	D/s of Hanuman Ghat	Near sewage pumping station about 400 m D/s of Sadbhavna Bridge

Photographs of river locations



Photo 5: Sampling site at Katghara Olandganj



Photo 6: Sampling & onsite measurement at Shahipul



Photo 7: Sadbhawana bridge sampling



Photo 8: Shastri bridge sampling

The results of samples collected from the river locations are tabulated (Table-4) below-

Table 4: Water quality at four locations of R. Gomti

S. No.	Parameter	Unit	Sampling location				Class B (DBU water quality criteria)
			Katghara Olandganj	Shahipul	Sadbhavna Bridge	Shastri Bridge	
1	pH	--	7.6	7.62	7.74	7.73	6.5-8.5
2	DO	mg/L	6.5	5.8	6.2	6.3	≥5
3	BOD	mg/L	4.7	5.66	5.36	5.26	≤3
4	NH3-N	mg/L	0.102	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	≤1.2
5	EC	μS/cm	387	372	374	382	≤2250
6	TC	MPN/100 ml	1.7×10 ⁵	1.7×10 ⁵	2.2×10 ⁴	1.1×10 ₆	≤500
12	Total Cr.	mg/L	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	--
13	Copper (Cu)	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	--
14	Cadmium (Cd)	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	--
15	Lead (Pb)	mg/L	<0.09	<0.09	<0.09	<0.09	--
16	Iron (Fe)	mg/L	0.7137	0.8317	1.0151	0.7924	--
17	Nickel (Ni)	mg/L	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	<0.04	--
18	Zinc (Zn)	mg/L	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	--

Water quality of the river at the upstream location at Katghara Olandgnaj is relatively better in terms of DO and BOD; however, the water is found not fit for organised outdoor bathing as BOD is more than 3 mg/L and TC is more than 500 MPN/100 ml (Table-4). Slight deterioration in water quality characterized by reduced DO and elevated BOD is observed at Shahipul, Sadbhavana Bridge and Shastri Bridge which is located downstream of Bajrang Ghat drains. This minor decline in water quality may be attributed to the two Bajrang Ghat drains discharging directly at the upstream of Shahipul. Analyzed heavy metals were not detected, except iron, with variation of 30 % within the four river locations.


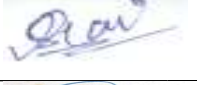
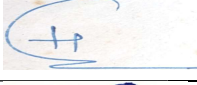
7.0 Conclusion:

High water level and free flow observed in R. Gomti and no fish mortality noticed. No work regarding silver refining and use of any chemical found in the area of concern. Only three wastewater drains were found in the area. Two of these drains, although not priority drains, found directly discharging in to the left bank of R. Gomti are having higher BOD and colour as compared to general discharge standards and increasing the pollution load of river. Presence of heavy metals in traces or below detection level indicates discharge from domestic sources only. As these drains are very small, they shall be tapped and diverted to the existing STP. Third drain in Sonar Mandi is found tapped and diverted to STP preventing discharge of untreated wastewater in R. Gomti and hence not significantly impacting river water quality.

River water quality in the study region was found unfit for organised outdoor bathing with slight quality deterioration downstream from the drain discharge points. No heavy metals, other than iron, were detected, suggesting no industrial discharge.

Overall, no fish mortality in between Katghara Olandganj to Shastri Bridge at Jaunpur city in River Gomti observed during visit and the drains in the area around Sonar Mandi are not showing any industrial characteristics and the same is reflected in the river water quality.

8.0 Monitoring Team

Name & Designation	Organization	Signature
1. Er.Ram Balak Singh, Sci. 'C'	CPCB RD Lucknow	
2. Dr.Sarvesh Rai, Sci. 'C'	CPCB RD Lucknow	
3. Sh.Harishchandra, SI	Nagar Palika,Jaunpur	
4. Sh. Rajnath Chaudhry, SA	UPPCB, RO Varanasi	