

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

Original Application No. 293 of 2025

**In the matter of**

News item titled 'Five killed 29 injured in illegal cracker factory blast in Punjab's Muktsar' appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 30.05.2025.

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| 1     | Compliance report / Reply by way of affidavit of Er. Jaspal Singh Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Muktsar Sahib (On behalf of respondent no.1 Punjab Pollution Control Board) in compliance to order dated 05.06.2025. | 1 - 4    |

Date: 24/7/2025

Place: Ludhiana



(Jaspal Singh)  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Muktsar Sahib  
(On behalf of respondent no.1 Punjab  
Pollution Control Board)

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**

Original Application No. 293 of 2025

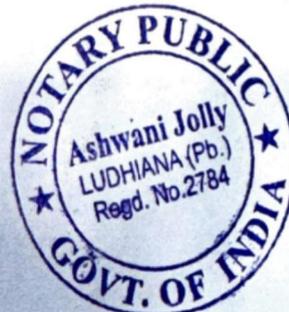
In Re: News item titled 'Five killed 29 injured in illegal cracker factory blast in Punjab's Muktsar' appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 30.05.2025.

Short reply by way of affidavit of Er. Jaspal Singh, Environmental Engineer, Regional Office, Muktsar Sahib on behalf of Punjab Pollution Control Board (respondent no.1) in compliance of the order dated 05.06.2025.

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby, solemnly affirm and state as under:

**Respectfully Showeth;**

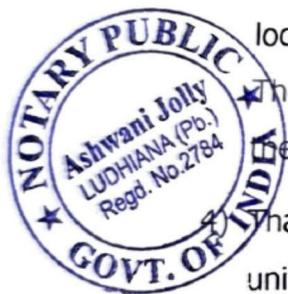
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- 1) That the above-mentioned original application has been registered by this Hon'ble Tribunal in exercise of suo-motu powers on the basis a news item titled "Five killed 29 injured in illegal cracker factory blast in Punjab's Muktsar" published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 30.05.2025. According to the news item an explosion has taken place at an illegal fire cracker manufacturing and package unit in Singhewala Village located in Sub Tehsil Lambi of District Sri Muktsar Sahib. The blast has led to the collapse of two-storey building resulting in the death of five migrant workers and injury to 27 others.
  - 2) That after consideration of the matter, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass an order dated 05.06.2025 thereby impleading the Punjab Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Regional Office, Chandigarh and Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib as respondents in the case with direction to file their response / reply.



3) That briefly submitted, the Punjab Pollution Control Board was not in the knowledge of any such fire cracker unit. After the publication of the news item on 30.05.2025, the officer of Regional Office of the Punjab Pollution Control Board at Sri Muktsar Sahib rushed to the spot. During visit it was observed that the unit in question was located at village Fatuhi Wala, Malout, Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib and was being operated inside a house where labour was also residing. There were two houses at this site, one of double storey and one of single storey and both the builds were found collapsed during visit. These buildings were located away from the village habitation. During visit, rescue operation by police department, NGOs and other rescue teams was in operation. The local inquiry revealed that illegal manufacturing and storage of fire cracker was being carried out and due to sudden spark, this incident has occurred. The actual name and owner of the unit could not be verified at site as owner of the unit had escaped and building was almost collapsed at site. As per the statements given by the workers to the police department, the illegal manufacturing/storage of fire cracker was being carried out at this location. At the site some packing material for fire crackers was also found.

The police department has lodged the FIR no. 0129 dated 30.05.2025 against the owner of the unit.

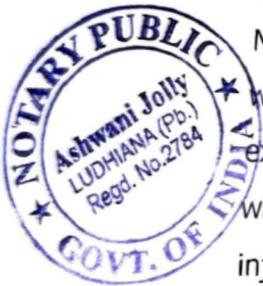
That further inquiry made by the officer of the Board has revealed that the unit has obtained GST certificate from the Office of State Tax Officer under the name of Civic Traders, Fatuhi Wala, Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib and ownership of Sh. Navraj Singh S/o Sh. Tarsem Singh, Village Singhewala, Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib was shown for doing the retail sale of dog or cat food. However, at site it started the illegal manufacturing/packaging of the fire crackers. The unit has also obtained the fire safety certificate from the fire and safety department under the name and style of M/s Civic Traders, Fatuhi Wala, Malout, Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib. Hence, the exact name of the unit as came to the notice of the Board is M/s Civic Traders, Fatuhi Wala, Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib owned by Sh. Navraj Singh S/o Sh. Tarsem Singh, Village Singhewala, Malout, Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib. The unit has not



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obtained any NOC from pollution angle for the establishment of the firecracker unit and had also not obtained any consent to operate under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The unit has also not obtained any NOC from the Explosive Department and or the District Administration

- 5) That it is relevant to mention here that Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib has called a meeting of the concerned departments on 09.07.2025 wherein the Environmental Engineer, Punjab Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Sri Muktsar Sahib also participated. The matter was deliberated and it was observed that some victims of the case belong to other States namely Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. Letters have been written by the Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib to the District Magistrate, Hathrash, Aligarh, Ferozabad, Etah, Chandauli, Amroha (Uttar Pradesh), District Magistrate, Karnal (Haryana) and District Magistrate, North East, Delhi with request to inform the people of their area about the incident and for filing their claims under the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 with the office of District Magistrate, Sri Muktsar for compensation / relief. As per information available with the office of the Board, Deputy Commissioner, Sri Muktsar Sahib has extended compensation of Rs. 2.00 Lakh each to the families of five persons who have died in the incident and Rs. 50,000/- each to 44 persons who were injured.



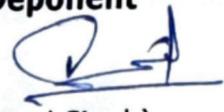
- 6) That it relevant to mention here that FIR no. 0129 dated 30.05.2025 has been registered by the Police at Police Station Lambi, District Sri Muktsar Sahib u/s 105, 118 (2), 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023; Section 9B of the Explosive Act, 1884 and Section 92 of the Factories Act, 1948 against Sh. Tarsem Singh, Sukhchain Kaur and Navraj Singh residents of Singhewala Village, Lambi, District Sri Muktsar Sahib. Sh. Tarsem Singh and Sh. Navraj Singh have been arrested by the Police and are in jail.
- 7) That the site was visited by the officer of the Board and the building was found dismantled. Debris and broken bricks are lying at the site. The action in the case has already taken by the Police Department and compensation to

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the families of the victims and injured persons is being extended by the District Administration.

8) That the reply of the Board is hereby submitted in compliance to order 05.06.2025 for kind consideration and appropriate orders.

**Deponent**



(Jaspal Singh)  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Muktsar Sahib  
(On behalf of respondent no.1  
Punjab Pollution Control Board)

Date: 24/7/2025

Place: Ludhiana

**Verification:**

Certified that the affidavit/S.P.A./GPA has been readover & explained to the deponent executant who seemed Correctly to understand the same at the time making there of

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I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify and state that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, as derived from the official record. No part of the above affidavit is false and nothing material has been concealed there from.

**Deponent**

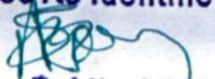


(Jaspal Singh)  
Environmental Engineer,  
Punjab Pollution Control Board,  
Regional Office, Muktsar Sahib  
(On behalf of respondent no.1  
Punjab Pollution Control Board)

Date: 24/7/2025

Place: Ludhiana

Attested As Identified



Notary Public, LDH.

24 JUL 2025

