

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

(Under Section 14 read with Section 15 of the National Green
Tribunal Act, 2010)

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 99 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Sovran Singh

... Applicant

Versus

State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.

... Respondents

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New Delhi

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REJOINDER TO THE REPLY FILED BY THE
 RESPONDENT NO. 2

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:

1. That the contents of Para 1, 2, 3 do not call for any comments being matter of record.
2. That the contents of Para 4 are wrong hence denied. It is submitted that, the contents of para 4 are misleading and denied to the extent they seek to portray the proceedings under Rule 80 of the U.P. Sub-Mineral (Prevention) Rules, 2021 as neutral or determinative of the environmental issues involved.

The so-called vigilance proceedings relied upon therein pertain only to administrative monitoring and do not, in any manner, dilute, override or wash away the repeated and established findings of large-scale illegal river bed mining recorded by the District Magistrate himself, including mining up to 80–100 feet depth, use of banned machinery, misplacement of boundary pillars and imposition of heavy penalties. Mere cognizance of a



vigilance complaint cannot be equated with exoneration from environmental violations.

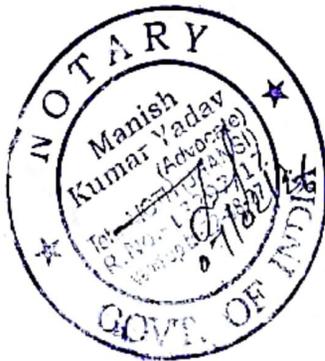
3. That the contents of para 5 are wrong hence denied, it is submitted that, Para 5 is a matter of record to the extent that SEIAA passed an order dated 02.04.2025. However, it is specifically submitted that the said order itself recorded a categorical finding that once the mining lease stood cancelled by the District Magistrate, the Environmental Clearance automatically became null and void w.e.f. 12.08.2024. This finding attained finality and directly negates any subsequent attempt to revive the Environmental Clearance without a fresh environmental appraisal and consideration of past violations.
4. That the contents of para 6 are wrong hence denied, it is submitted that the contents of para 6 are incomplete and misleading. It is denied that the writ petition was a bona fide challenge. The Project Proponent deliberately concealed the pendency of the present Original Application, which had already been filed on 14.02.2025 and wherein the grave issues of illegal mining and environmental damage were under active consideration by this Hon'ble Tribunal. Suppression of such a material fact vitiates the writ proceedings and disentitles the Project Proponent from any equitable relief.
5. That in reply to contents of para 7, it is admitted that the Hon'ble High Court directed grant of opportunity of hearing and passing of a reasoned order. However, it is emphatically denied that the Hon'ble High Court ever directed grant or



restoration of Environmental Clearance. The High Court's order was procedural in nature and did not condone past violations, nor did it dispense with the statutory obligations of SEIAA under the EIA Notification, 2006.

6. In reply to contents of para 8, the grant of a personal hearing on 02.12.2025, even if assumed, does not cure the illegality in restoration of Environmental Clearance. Principles of natural justice cannot be reduced to a mere formality, particularly when the authority fails to consider admitted, serious and repeated environmental violations and the binding consequences thereof.
7. That the contents of Para 9 are emphatically denied. The so-called "conscious and reasoned decision" is illusory. While restoring the Environmental Clearance, SEIAA failed to consider:
 - a. The repeated findings of illegal mining by the District Magistrate,
 - b. The imposition of cumulative penalties of about ₹55 lakhs,
 - c. The use of banned machinery in the main river stream,
 - d. Its own earlier decision declaring the EC null and void.

The restoration order is therefore vitiated by non-application of mind and is contrary to environmental law.



8. That the contents of Para 10 as stated are wrong hence denied. The suspension of mining operations was not a mere administrative consequence but was directly attributable to serious and established environmental violations committed by the leaseholder. The assertion that the suspension was "not attributable to any violation" is contrary to the record maintained by the District Magistrate himself.
9. That the contents of Para 11 are wrong hence denied. Restoration of Environmental Clearance does not automatically legitimise mining operations when the very substratum of the EC stands destroyed by repeated environmental violations. Any resumption of mining without fresh appraisal, damage assessment and restoration plan is illegal and environmentally impermissible.
10. That the content of Para 12 is wholly misconceived. The leaseholder cannot seek to treat the period of suspension as an "interrupted period" when such suspension arose due to his own illegal acts and environmental non-compliance. No equity can be claimed from one's own wrongdoing.
11. That the contents of Para 13 are emphatically denied. The subsequent developments relied upon do not cure the fundamental illegality attached to the Environmental Clearance. Compliance with procedural directions of the Hon'ble High Court cannot override substantive environmental law, nor can it erase past violations or environmental damage already caused.
12. The contents of para 14 are denied. The so-called subsequent developments do not remove the illegality in



restoration of Environmental Clearance, which remains contrary to the EIA Notification, 2006, the precautionary principle, and binding environmental jurisprudence. The present Original Application therefore survives and deserves to be allowed.

13. It is respectfully submitted that the reply filed by the District Magistrate, Jhansi, seeks to justify an otherwise illegal restoration of Environmental Clearance by selectively referring to administrative proceedings, while completely ignoring the gravity, scale and consequences of repeated illegal river bed mining. The impugned restoration of EC is liable to be set aside.

शोषन सिंह

APPLICANT

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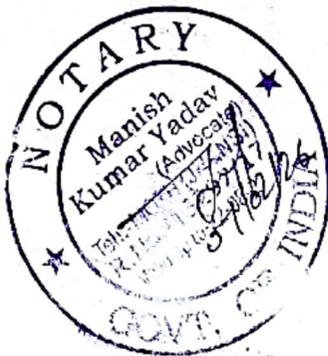
AFFIDAVIT

I, Sovran Singh, aged about 35 years, S/o Gyan Singh R/o Targuwan, Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh – 284126, do hereby solemnly affirm and states as under:

1. That the deponent is applicant in the above-mentioned matter and as such he is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case.
2. That the deponent has gone through the contents of the accompanying rejoinder to the reply filed by respondent No. 2. The same has been drafted as per my instructions. The contents of the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and nothing material has been concealed there from.

DEPONENT

सोवरन सिंह



VERIFICATION

I, the deponent above named do hereby verify that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge derived from the records and nothing relevant has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Jhansi on this 7 day of January 2026.

DEPONENT

शतारा के।



Serial No. 477/26 Date 07/02/26
Certified that the foregoing statement
sworn before me this day at M.P.H.
by Shri/Smt. Souvansingh S. Gyankeingh
to whom the affidavit have
been read and explained and who
is identified by Jarguan
Received the fee

Manish Kumar Yadav
ADVOCATE
Notary (Govt. of India) Teh. MOTH (Jhansi) 07/02/26