

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

Original Application No. 985/2019

With

Original Application No. 986/2019

With

Original Application No. 528/2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

In Re: Water Pollution by Tanneries at Jajmau Kanpur Uttar Pradesh

With

In Re: Water Pollution at Rania Kanpur Dehat & Rakhi Mandi Kanpur

Nagar Uttar Pradesh

With

News report published in Dainik Jagran dated 14.08.2023 “highlights a growing concern regarding industrial pollution in the Godhrauli village

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	residents in certain localities, serving as the basis for sustained health surveillance and interventions.	
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Through



Date: 19.01.2025

Place: New Delhi

PRIYANKA SWAMI

STANDING COUNSEL FOR STATE, UTTAR PRADESH

F-13, JANGPURA, NEW DELHI 110014

E-mail: advpriyankaswami@gmail.com

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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY, MEDICAL HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH.**

I, _____ S/o Shri _____, aged about ____ years, presently posted as Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

1. The Hon'ble Tribunal is presently dealing with several Original Applications that raise grave concerns regarding environmental and water pollution in the

districts of Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, and Fatehpur. In particular, pollution from tannery effluents in Jajmau, Kanpur, and possible contamination by heavy metals such as chromium and mercury in the region have led to a potential public health crisis. It has also been alleged that individuals in certain localities exhibit skin ailments, respiratory diseases, anemia, and organ-specific ailments possibly traceable to toxic exposure. The Learned Amicus Curiae has submitted an Interim Report suggesting that some pockets of these districts may, in fact, be facing an environmental emergency.

2. It is respectfully submitted that Pursuant to the order dated 27.11.2024, the Hon'ble Tribunal has directed multiple authorities, including the Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh, to file a response supported by an affidavit. The Learned Amicus Curiae's submissions point to a lack of in-house heavy metal testing in prominent institutions, the non-availability of adequate diagnostic tools, and the necessity for organized medical camps to detect and monitor diseases attributable to industrial discharge. This Department has accordingly gathered details from the concerned Chief Medical Officers in Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, and Fatehpur, and also from specialized institutes providing tertiary care in these districts.
3. It is respectfully submitted that the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department initiated health camps in the most severely affected areas, including Rakhi Mandi and Afeem Kothi in Kanpur Nagar. These camps revealed high levels of mercury and chromium in the blood samples of residents. Immediate medical interventions were provided, and the findings were reported by the Chief Medical Officer, Kanpur Nagar. That copies of

letters dated 30.07.2024, 31.08.2024, 15.10.2024, 12.11.2024, 05.12.2024, and 03.01.2025 from the Chief Medical Officer, Kanpur Nagar, detailing health surveys and medical camps in these areas, along with future action plans, are enclosed herewith and marked **Annexure No.-1.**

4. That similar health camps were organized in Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur districts, where widespread health issues, including respiratory ailments, neurological disorders, behavioral changes, and skin conditions, were identified. That mercury and chromium testing were carried out in collaboration with the CSIR Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow. The findings necessitated ongoing monitoring and treatment. That copies of letters dated 16.01.2025 from the Chief Medical Officers of Kanpur Dehat and Fatehpur, highlighting health camp results, testing data, and three-month action plans, are enclosed herewith and marked **Annexure No.-2.**
5. That the J.K. Cancer Institute in Kanpur Nagar has been pivotal in providing specialized care to affected individuals, offering radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and ICU services for cancer patients. However, it was noted that the institute lacks in-house facilities for heavy metal testing, which are managed by CSIR IITR, Lucknow. That copies of letters dated 16.01.2025 from the Director, J.K. Cancer Institute, Kanpur Nagar, clarifying the availability of medical services and the non-availability of in-house heavy metal testing, are enclosed herewith and marked **Annexure No.-3.**
6. That the health infrastructure in the affected districts is comprehensive, including district hospitals, community health centers, and medical colleges. Institutions such as GSVM Medical College in Kanpur Nagar and Amar Shaheed Jodha Singh Ataiya Medical College in Fatehpur ensure access to

advanced medical care. That these facilities are staffed with experienced doctors and equipped to handle complex cases resulting from industrial pollution. Furthermore, hemodialysis facilities are operational in all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, including Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, and Fatehpur, to address severe cases of heavy metal toxicity.

7. That the management of heavy metal toxicity in these districts follows protocols outlined in Goldfrank's Manual of Toxicology Emergencies. For chromium toxicity, symptom-based treatments are provided due to the absence of a specific antidote, while Dimercaprol (BAL) is available and administered for acute mercury toxicity. That these treatments have been instrumental in providing timely interventions to affected individuals and ensuring their recovery.
8. That specific interventions in Godhrauli village, Malwan Block, Fatehpur District, were implemented following the findings highlighted in the *Dainik Jagran* report. Health camps and surveys identified high levels of chromium exposure among residents, prompting the launch of targeted awareness programs, regular testing initiatives, and focused treatments. That the Health Department Report on Water Pollution and Health Interventions in Godhrauli Village, Fatehpur District, is enclosed herewith and marked **Annexure No.-4.**

9. That the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department has taken proactive measures to raise public awareness about the health risks associated with heavy metal exposure. Educational campaigns have been conducted to inform residents about preventive measures, early symptoms of toxicity, and the importance of timely medical consultations. That these initiatives aim to engage local communities in mitigating health risks effectively.
10. That the department has prepared three-month action plans for Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, and Fatehpur districts, focusing on enhancing diagnostic and treatment facilities, increasing the frequency of health camps, and expanding collaboration with institutions like CPCB, UPPCB, and CSIR IITR. These plans aim to provide sustained health interventions and long-term solutions for the affected population.
11. That efforts are underway to improve the coordination between the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department and the Medical Education Department to strengthen healthcare services further. This includes upgrading testing facilities, deploying additional specialist doctors, and ensuring the availability of critical resources in all medical units across the affected districts.
12. That the next hearing before the Honorable NGT is scheduled for 22.01.2025. The Medical Health and Family Welfare Department has ensured the timely submission of all affidavits and reports required by the Tribunal. These documents comprehensively address the actions taken, findings observed, and plans for mitigating the crisis in compliance with the Tribunal's directives.

13. That the Medical Health and Family Welfare Department reaffirms its commitment to addressing the health and environmental challenges caused by tannery pollution. By ensuring sustained efforts, interdepartmental collaboration, and active public participation, the government aims to restore ecological balance and improve public health in Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, and Fatehpur districts. That through these measures, the department endeavors to secure a healthier and more sustainable future for the region while adhering to the directives of the Honorable Tribunal.

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

Verified at _____ on this the ___ day of January, 2025 that the contents of above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge based on records and information received and believed to be true, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

DEPONENT