

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI****OA NO. 727 OF 2024****IN THE MATTER OF:**

News Item titled "Endangered Gangetic dolphins found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation" appearing in Mongaby- India dated 20.05.2024

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	ANNEXURES	
2.	COPY OF THE REPORT OF RESTORATION MEASURES ANNEXED HEREWITH AS ANNEXURE R-1.	
3.	COPY OF THE THE DETAILS OF PROPOSED WORKS IN RESPECT OF RS 91.235 LAKHS ALLOCATED FOR "GANGA DOLPHIN CONSERVATION" UNDE CENTRALLY FUNDED "INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF WILDLIFE	

	HABITATS” SCHEME IN FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26 ANNEXED HEREWITH AS ANNEXURE R-2	
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THROUGH COUNSEL



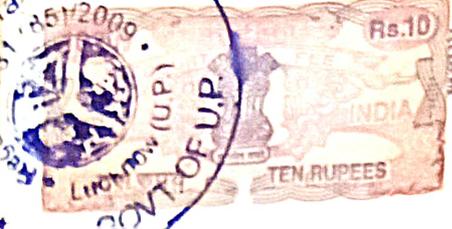
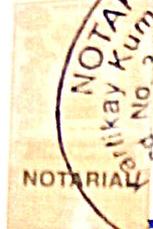
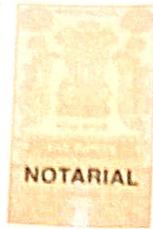
**BHANWAR PAL SINGH JADON
COUNSEL FOR STATE OF U.P.**

Bhanwar09jadon09@gmail.com | 9639286572

Date: 17.02.2026

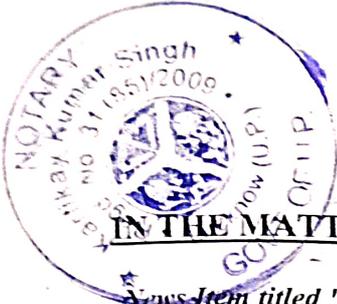
Place: NOIDA

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

OA NO. 727 OF 2024



IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "Endangered Gangetic dolphins found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation" appearing in Mongaby- India dated 20.05.2024

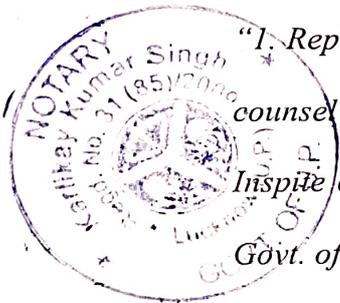
RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 8 IN COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDER DT. 26.11.2025 PASSED BY THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, NEW DELHI

I, Sanjaya Kumar Bishwal aged about 40 years s/o Brajabandhu Biswal presently posted as Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of U.P., do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

1. That I, the Deponent in the above captioned matter am fully conversant with the facts of the case and is competent and authorized to swear the present response.

WORN VERIFIED
BEFORE ME
Kartikay Kumar Singh
(Advocate)
NOTARY
Lucknow (U.P.) INDIA
17/2/2026

2. That I state that the contents of the response have been drafted by my counsel on my instructions and the contents of the same are true to my knowledge and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.
3. That the present matter was last listed for hearing on 26.11.2025, wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal directed as under:



"I. Reply on behalf of the Respondents No. 5 and 6 have been filed. Learned counsel appearing for the Respondent No. 10 seeks four weeks to file the reply. In spite of service of notice Respondent No. 7-PCCF-Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Jharkhand, Respondent No. 8- Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh and Respondent No. 9-PCCF- Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttarakhand are not represented. Let fresh notices be sent to them for filing response by way of affidavit before the next date of hearing."

4. That the present affidavit is being filed in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal and in response to the allegations regarding conservation measures for the Gangetic Dolphin.
5. At the outset, it is submitted that the **Gangetic Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*)** is a **Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act** and enjoys the highest degree of legal protection in India.

WORN VERIFIED
& BEFORE ME
Kartikay Kumar Singh
(Advocate)
NOTARY
Lucknow (U.P.) INDIA

17/2/2026

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6. The Government of Uttar Pradesh declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the State Aquatic Animal in the year 2023, reaffirming its commitment toward species conservation.

A Copy of the report of restoration measures has been annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-1.

I. Regarding lack of habitat protection and restoration

7. That it is respectfully submitted that habitat protection and restoration form a core component of the State's conservation strategy. Protected river stretches fall within:

- a. National Chambal Sanctuary
- b. Sarnath Turtle Sanctuary

8. That regular patrolling, anti-poaching measures, sand mining regulation in notified stretches, and habitat mapping exercises are being undertaken to ensure protection of critical dolphin habitats.

II. Regarding inadequate scientific monitoring

9. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with:

WORN VERIFIED
 BIRAJ KUMAR MUR
 Kattig/Kumar Singh
 (Signature)
 (U.P.) INDIA

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- a. Wildlife Institute of India
- b. WWF-India
- c. Wildlife Trust of India

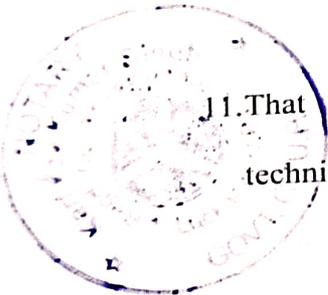
has undertaken systematic population assessments using unified and scientifically validated methodologies.

10. That dolphin surveys have been conducted across approximately 3,450 km of the river Ganga and its tributaries including Yamuna, Chambal, Ken, Gomti, Rapti, Betwa and Ghaghra.

11. That advanced tools such as hydrophones and geo-referenced survey techniques have been used to enhance detection accuracy.

12. That during the 2012 systematic census, approximately 671 dolphins were estimated in surveyed stretches.

13. During the nationwide survey conducted in 2021–23, an estimated 6,327 river dolphins were recorded across India, of which 2,397 dolphins were recorded in Uttar Pradesh — the highest among all States.



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 17/2/2026

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14. A second nationwide survey is presently underway across 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh along the river Ganga.

III. Regarding overemphasis on awareness without tangible outcomes

15. It is respectfully submitted that awareness programs are not standalone activities but are integrated with ground-level interventions.

16. The "My Ganga, My Dolphin" campaign has been implemented to foster community stewardship and reduce human-dolphin conflict.

17. **Dolphin Mitras (trained community volunteers)** have been engaged to serve as a bridge between local fishing communities and the Forest Department.

18. Capacity-building workshops, livelihood sensitization programs, and consultative meetings are regularly conducted to ensure cooperative conservation.

19. The engagement model ensures reduction in deliberate harm, improved reporting of strandings, and cooperation during rescue operations.

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IV. Regarding fishing-related mortality and ghost nets

20. Measures have been initiated to reduce mortality due to fishing gear, including:

- i. Promotion of dolphin deterrent devices (pingers);
- ii. Reduction of ghost nets through buy-back initiatives;
- iii. Sensitization of fishing communities regarding sustainable fishing practices.

21. Enforcement action is undertaken against illegal fishing practices under applicable provisions of law.

V. Regarding absence of site-specific action plans

22. The Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the Gangetic Dolphin (2010–2020) provided a structured national framework for species protection.

23. Conservation efforts in Uttar Pradesh are tailored to site-specific conditions across different river stretches, considering local threats such as sand mining, fishing intensity, boat traffic and pollution load.

A Copy of the details of proposed works in respect of Rs 91.235 Lakhs allocated for “Ganga Dolphin Conservation” under centrally funded

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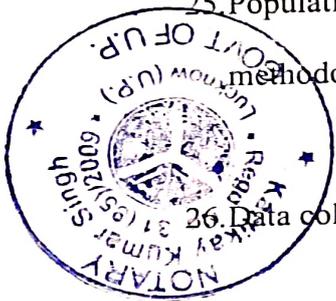
17/8/2020

“Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats” scheme in financial year 2025-26 has been annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-2.

24. Micro-level planning is undertaken at Division level to address localized threats.

VI. Regarding lack of objective monitoring and evaluation

25. Population monitoring is periodically conducted using standardized scientific methodology.



26. Data collected during successive surveys allows comparative trend analysis.

27. Collaboration with independent scientific institutions ensures objectivity in monitoring.

VII. Rescue and Rehabilitation Efforts

28. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in coordination with Turtle Survival Alliance, undertakes rescue operations for dolphins stranded in canal systems.

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**SWORN AND FILED
BEFORE ME
Kartikey Kumar Singh
(Advocate)
NOTARY
Lucknow (U.P.) INDIA**

17/2/2026

29. Multiple rescue operations were successfully conducted in the Sharda Feeder canal during 2024 and 2025.

30. Standard operating procedures are followed for safe capture, veterinary evaluation and release into suitable habitats.

31. Hence, the present response is being submitted for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Tribunal. It is prayed that the same be taken on record.

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VERIFICATION

Verified at on this _ day of February, 2026, that the contents of the above affidavit from paragraphs 1 to 31 are believed to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. No part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

WORN AND
BEFORE ME
Kartikaj Kumar Singh
(Advocate)
NOTARY
Lucknow (U.P.) INDIA

17/2/2020

and identify the deponent who
has signed/past TL before me

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DEPONENT

ENDANGERED GANGETIC DOLPHINS FOUND IN MOST TRIBUTARIES OF GANGES,
PROMPTING URGENT CONSERVATION

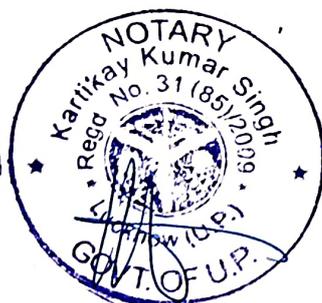
The Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) is a top predator that influences the food chain structure, thereby plays a critical role in maintaining the vital ecological processes of the river ecosystems and serve as a potential indicator for monitoring overall health of river systems. In state of Uttar Pradesh, Dolphin has been declared as the State Aquatic Animal in year 2023.

Dolphins are protected under Scheduled I species of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, to conserve the South Asian river dolphin in India. For protection of Gangetic dolphin, a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) was prepared for duration of ten years from 2010-2020.

- Key Conservation Efforts in Uttar Pradesh: Population Surveys and Monitoring

The Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with WWF-India under the Namami Gange Mission, conducts comprehensive Gangetic dolphin conservation initiatives including population surveys, habitat protection and community sensitization. Key efforts by Uttar Pradesh Forest Department include the "My Ganga, My Dolphin" campaign, establishing protected areas, rescuing dolphins trapped in canals and surveying major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna and Chambal.

The Uttar Pradesh state conducts dolphin censuses using systematic unified methodology across approximately 3,450 km of river Ganga and its tributaries including Yamuna, Chambal, Ken, Gomti, Rapti Betwa and Ghaghra rivers. This survey includes using advanced tools such as hydrophones. About 15% of Gangetic dolphins population are found in 3450 km stretch of Ganga & its tributaries. This length includes 650 km stretch, where first systematic census was conducted in year



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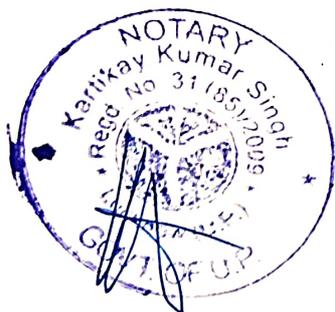
2012 widely in the shed of Ganga and its tributaries. During this census, the population of Gangetic Dolphins was estimated at approximately 671 in numbers.

During year 2021-23, the U.P. Forest Department in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and Government of India organized nation-wide survey which rewarded as estimated around 6,327 riverine dolphins, including Ganges River Dolphins. During this census 2,397 dolphins were recorded in Uttar Pradesh, which is highest in country.

Second nationwide Dolphin Population Survey is currently being undertaken in Uttar Pradesh, conducted by WII in collaboration with WTI and Forest Department. This survey is being carried out across about 13 districts along the river Ganga.

• **Habitat Mapping/Protection of Habitats**

- The National Chambal Sanctuary and Sarnath Turtle Sanctuary act as protected areas for the dolphin species.
- For protection, following restoration measures are envisaged as per details (Copy attached) given under-
 - i. Use of Dolphin deterrent devices such as pingers and reducing ghost nets through buying back of abandoned nets.
 - ii. Community engagement and awareness program for co-operative efforts, including engaging volunteers as "Dolphin Mitras" who will serve as bridge between Forest Department and local villagers.
 - iii. Regular training programs for forest staff, Dolphin Mitras members, and local NGO's representatives.
 - iv. Capacity building of all stakeholders including workshops and training programs to ensure effective participation in the Gangetic dolphins conservation program.



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• Conservation Challenges

The major drivers of population decline and range deduction of the species can be attributed to habitat loss, increasing water demands, impoundments such as dams and barrages, deliberate killing for oil and mortality in fishing gear.

Apart from above, threats for River dolphin also include:

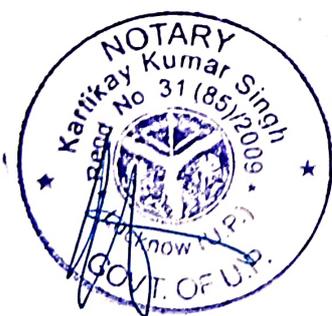
1. Stranding of dolphins.
2. Human-dolphin conflict.
3. Water extraction and flow reduction.
4. River pollution.
5. Motor boat/cruise traffic.
6. Poaching, hunting, net entanglement and ghost nets.
7. Reduction in prey base and unsustainable fishing practices.
8. Habitats degradation and alteration.
9. Sand mining.

Cooperative efforts:

Various activities encompassing awareness programs, capacity-building workshops, cleanliness drives, plantation initiatives, sensitization program, workshops, consultative meetings, livelihood training sessions, cultural activities, ecological surveys, and rescue operations, were diligently carried out across various districts of Uttar Pradesh along the Ganga River in cooperation with multiple stakeholders.

Rescue and Rehabilitation-

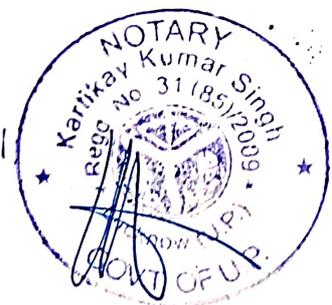
U.P. Forest department often in co-ordination with partner organization like the "Turtle Survival Alliance" performs rescue operations to save dolphins trapped in canal networks. Multiple dolphins were rescued from Sharda feeder in 2024 & 2025.



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वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में केन्द्र पुरोनिधानित-“इन्टीग्रेटेड डेवलपमेंट ऑफ वाइल्ड लाइफ हैबीटस” योजना के अन्तर्गत “जैजेटिक जालिमन कंजर्वेशन” हेतु आवंटित धनराशि रु0 91.235 लाख मात्र के सापेक्ष प्रस्तावित कार्यों का विवरण

क्रमांक	प्रभाग का नाम	दैनिक कर्म	प्यूल	वेतन	जागरूकता	जालिमन मिन	नेट वाई बैक	संख्ये	योग (रु लाख में)
1	प्रयागराज	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
2	कौशांबी	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
3	फरहापुर	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
4	नाजापुर	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
5	दुलमेशहर	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
6	नेरट	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
7	मुजफ्फरनगर	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.248
8	मिर्जापुर	1.28	1.200	0.928	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.200	2.968
9	अमरहा	0.00	1.200	0.928	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.200	4.748
10	बलिया	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
11	वाराणसी	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	2.968
12	कन्नौज	0.00	1.200	0.928	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.200	2.968
13	फर्रुखाबाद	0.00	1.200	0.928	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.200	2.965
14	कासगंज	0.00	1.197	0.928	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.200	4.748
15	रायबरेली	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	4.748
16	बिजनौर	1.280	1.200	0.928	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.200	2.620
17	गोरखपुर	1.280	0.00	0.00	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.170	2.590
18	अयोध्या	1.280	0.00	0.00	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.170	2.590
19	समस्त	1.280	0.00	0.00	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.170	1.310
20	राष्ट्रीय चम्बल	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.170	2.590
21	कानपुर नगर	1.280	0.00	0.00	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.170	1.310
22	प्रतापगढ़	0.000	0.00	0.00	0.250	0.640	0.250	0.170	2.590
23	अलीगढ़	1.280	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
24	बदायूँ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
25	उन्नाव	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
26	हनुमानगढ़	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
27	शीहजहापुर	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
28	वाराणसी	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
29	मदही	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
30	दहराद्वय	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
31	दक्षिण-खंडी	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
32	हरदोई	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.640	0.00	0.170	0.810
	प्रयागराज (कुल राशि में)	21.760	19.197	14.818	4.500	20.480	4.500	5.950	91.235



Signature

वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 में केन्द्र पुरोनिधानित-“इन्फ्रीग्रेटेड डेवलपमेण्ट आफ वाइल्ड लाइफ हैबीटेटस” योजना के अन्तर्गत कराये गये कार्य

क्रमांक	प्रान का नाम	आवृत्ति धनराशि	मोटवोट कय	दैनिक श्रमिक	फूल	बोटमैन	जागरकता	डाल्फिन मित्र	संस्थिडी	योग (रु लाख में)
1	₹00000, डानराज	4.728	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.728
2	₹00000, काँरादी	4.853	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.000	0.000	0.125	4.853
3	₹00000, फलेपुर	5.353	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.500	0.000	0.125	5.353
4	₹00000, नाजीपुर	5.1899	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.337	0.000	0.125	5.1899
5	₹00000, दुलन्दराहर	4.853	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.000	0.000	0.125	4.853
6	₹00000, मेरठ वन प्रान	4.728	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.728
7	₹00000, गुजपकरनगर	4.728	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.728
8	₹00000, फिरीपुर	4.728	0.00	1.600	2.200	0.928	0.000	0.000	0.000	4.728
9	₹00000, अन्तराहा	8.045	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.125	8.045
10	₹00000, विजनाँर	7.92	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.000	7.92
11	₹00000, धारापत्ती	8.045	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.125	8.045
12	₹00000, कन्नाँव	7.92	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.000	7.92
13	₹00000, फलंझावाँद	7.92	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.000	7.92
14	₹00000, कासनज	8.045	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.125	8.045
15	₹00000, राठकंरती	7.92	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.920	0.000	7.92
16	₹00000, वलिया	8.545	6.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.500	1.920	0.125	8.545
	महा योग (रु लाख में)	103.5209								103.5209

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वित्तीय वर्ष 2022-23 में केन्द्रीय पुरोनिधानित-डेवलपमेंट आफ वाइल्ड लाइफ हैबीटेट्स योजना " कन्जर्वेशन आफ गैजेटिक डाल्फिन" के अन्तर्गत कार्याय गये कार्य

क्रमांक	वर्ष	फाइबर बोट कय	जीपीएस कय	रेंज फाइण्डर कय	बाइनाकुलर कय	डेथ साउण्डर	पियर	प्लो मीटर	मैनेजमेंट प्लान	जागरूकता	स्टोरेज डिवाइस	स्टेशनरी आदि	योग योग (रु.लाख में)
1	वन संरक्षक लक्षण परियोजना	48.000	3.200	1.200	3.840	1.600	8.400	3.200	10.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	79.440
2	विजानोर	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
3	अमरोठा	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
4	मुजफ्फरनगर	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
5	भेट	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
6	युलरवाहर	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
7	फरहपुर	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
8	काँशान्दी	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
9	प्रधानराज	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
10	नदीही	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
11	विजानोर	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
12	वाराणसी	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
13	काशी	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
14	गार्जपुर	1	2	1	2	1	10	1	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
15	बलिया	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
16	राठेरा आगरा	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
17	रायबरेली	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.500	0.050	0.215	0.765
	भरी योग (रु.लाख में)	8	16	8	16	8	80	8	0	8.000	0.800	3.440	91.680

Signature

