

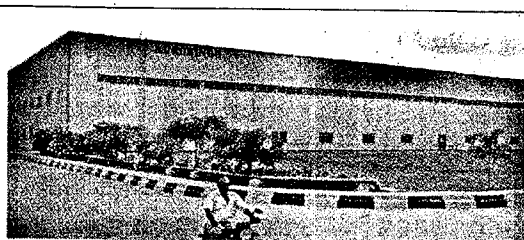
# AP pollution board orders Aurobindo Pharma, other companies to shut units

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Hyderabad, July 13: The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) has ordered closure of 12 manufacturing units of various pharma companies, including Aurobindo Pharma and Hetero Drugs, in and around Hyderabad for allegedly violating pollution norms.

According to a board's release, the notices have been issued to the facilities to stop all industrial activities with effect from July 23 to complete the on-going batches.

"The AP Pollution Control Board has reviewed certain bulk drug industries before the Board's Task Force committee meeting on July 9. After detailed discussions, the board is of the firm opinion that certain industries are violating the orders of Supreme Court of India, ban notification issued by the Andhra Pradesh government, Appellate Authority order and directions issued by the board,"



**THE UNITS INVOLVED ARE ALSO DIRECTED TO STOP ALL INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES WITH EFFECT FROM JULY 23 TO FACILITATE COMPLETION OF ALL ONGOING BATCHES**

the release said.

"Also, these units were found using un-consented products and changing the product mix. This only further increased the pollution load." PCB officials revealed, adding that "the appellate authority actually wanted to allow such malpractices to continue and had even suggested that the units could change their mix after consultation with PCB. However, no such arrangement was acknowledged by

the department," it said.

The facilities named in the order include two facilities of Aurobindo Pharma, four facilities of Hetero Labs, one each of Cirex Pharmaceuticals, Covalent Laboratories, Divis Pharmaceuticals, Sri Krishna Pharmaceuticals and Innogent Laboratories and SMS Pharma. "These industries are also directed to stop all industrial activities with effect from July 23 to facilitate completion of all on-going batches," it added.

Gort.