

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE,  
KOLKATA**

**I. A. No. 8 of 2026**

**IN**

**O.A. No. 61 of 2025**

In the matter of:  
Satam Patnaik

... Applicant

Versus

State of Odisha & Ors.

... Respondents

**INDEX**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Annexures	Page Nos.
1.	Reply on behalf of the Respondent No. 2 to the Application filed by Applicant along with supporting affidavit.		2-7



**FILED BY**  
*Shivam*  
**ADVOCATE**

X

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE,  
KOLKATA**

**I.A. NO. 8 OF 2026**

**IN**

**O.A. No. 61 of 2025**

In the matter of:  
Satam Patnaik

... Applicant

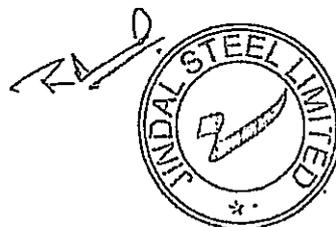
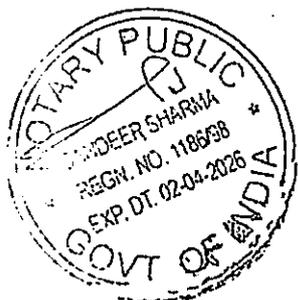
Versus

State of Odisha & Ors.

... Respondents

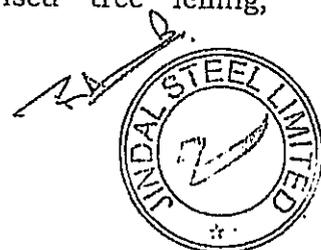
**REPLY ON BEHALF OF JINDAL STEEL LIMITED, RESPONDENT NO. 2  
TO THE APPLICATION FILED BY THE APPLICANT**

1. The present OA No. 61 of 2025 was filed by the Applicant on 05.03.2025 before this Hon'ble Tribunal alleging purported violations in relation to Kaliakata Reserve Forest ('Kaliakata RF') and Durgapur Reserve Forest ('Durgapur RF'), including alleged unauthorised road widening, illegal tree felling, adverse impact on the livelihood of Scheduled Tribe communities, obstruction to wildlife movement, and alleged transportation of coal.
2. It is submitted that Jindal Steel Limited (formerly known as Jindal Steel & Power Limited), Respondent No. 2 ('Jindal Steel') has already filed a detailed and comprehensive Counter Affidavit to the present OA, supported by statutory approvals, forest diversion permissions, contemporaneous correspondence with competent authorities, official inspection reports of the Forest Department and minutes of the Project Scrutiny Committee ('PSC'). The said affidavit exhaustively answers each allegation raised by the Applicant and demonstrates continuous regulatory supervision and compliance.



X

3. It is submitted that the Jindal Steel adopts, reiterates and relies upon the said Counter Affidavit filed in the present OA along with all annexures thereto, which are already on record and may be read as part and parcel of the present reply. The same are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
4. Jindal Steel denies all the contentions, allegations and averments made in the present application filed by the Applicant unless specifically admitted hereinbelow. Nothing stated in the present reply be construed to have been admitted by Jindal Steel for lack of specific denial. Jindal Steel is filing the limited reply without para-wise reply and reserves it's right to file a further reply in case required at a later stage.
5. At the very outset, it is submitted that the present Application for stay filed by the Applicant is wholly misconceived, not maintainable, and liable to be dismissed *in limine*. The present Application is devoid of merit, not maintainable in law, and amounts to a clear abuse of the process of this Hon'ble Tribunal. It neither discloses any fresh cause of action nor points to any supervening circumstance or subsequent environmental impact warranting interim intervention. The application merely reiterates allegations already raised in the Original Application and comprehensively responded by Jindal Steel in its Counter Affidavit, and is therefore an impermissible attempt to secure, through interlocutory proceedings, relief that is substantively final in nature.
6. It is submitted that Jindal Steel has already placed on record, by way of its counter affidavit, full details of compliance with the approved forest diversion, including authorised tree felling,



X

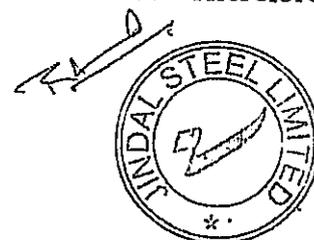
approved road width and land use, and measures ensuring no adverse impact on Scheduled Tribe livelihood or wildlife movement. The Applicant has not produced any material to controvert these compliances or to establish any violation or environmental harm.

7. As already placed on record in Jindal Steel's Counter Affidavit, the Applicant has initiated proceedings before the Odisha Human Rights Commission in Case No. 1639 of 2025, and further a permanent injunction has also been granted by the learned Civil Judge, Angul, in Civil Suit No. 60 of 2022 restraining the Applicant from interfering with the lawful activities of Respondent No. 2.
8. Moreover, FIR Nos. 0111/2024 and 0370/2024 have also been registered against the Applicant in connection with incidents affecting law and order near the project site, further evidencing the disruptive impact of the Applicant's activities.
9. Therefore, the present Application is clearly in continuation of Applicant's pattern of obstruction and is invoking the interim jurisdiction of this Hon'ble Tribunal with *mala fide* intent as a pressure tactic against Jindal Steel.
10. It is important to note that the Original Application was filed on 05.03.2025. For a substantial period thereafter, the Applicant did not seek any interim restraint, nor did any statutory authority record any imminent or irreversible environmental harm caused by Jindal Steel. Moreover, the project is subject to continuous monitoring and regulatory supervision by the competent statutory authorities at all relevant stages and at no point of time, any violation has been alleged by any Government authority.



X

11. The present application filed by the Applicant is a clear afterthought, devoid of any real urgency or *bona fides*, and is intended to secure, at the interlocutory stage, relief which is in substance identical to the final relief sought in the present OA.
12. These assertions are wholly unsupported by any reliable or contemporaneous documentary evidence. The Applicant has not placed on record any inspection report of any statutory authority, expert or scientific study, to substantiate the relief sought.
13. Further, the DFO has conducted site inspection and recorded in its report dated 28.11.2024 that no heavy vehicles were found moving on the road and no additional adverse use in violation of Forest Clearance conditions was observed.
14. The allegation of coal transportation through the subject forest corridor is wholly false and misleading. Coal production from the Utkal-B1 mine has not commenced till date. The transit permit relied upon by the Applicant in OA pertains to the Utkal-C mine, which is entirely unrelated to the corridor in question, a fact already demonstrated and placed on record in Jindal Steel's Counter Affidavit to the OA.
15. A further inspection was conducted by the DFO as recorded in its report dated 29.03.2025 wherein it is clearly noted that the road is being used only for transportation of construction material and movement of cranes and excavators required for erection of the elevated pipe conveyor, and expressly recorded that no heavy vehicles carrying coal were found to be moving on the road.
16. It is submitted that these inspection reports are statutory records prepared after physical verification by the DFO. Therefore,



X

Applicant's selective disregard of these findings while seeking interim relief amounts to suppression of material facts.

17. The elevated pipe conveyor system has been consciously adopted as an environmentally preferable mode of transportation, in line with the policy direction contained in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Gazette Notification dated 21.05.2020 encouraging covered conveyor systems to reduce environmental impact.
18. The project is subject to continuous monitoring and regulatory supervision by the competent statutory authorities at all relevant stages. In this regard, it is submitted that PSC in its meeting held on 09.04.2025 accepted the proposal submitted by Jindal Steel for change in land use and directed Jindal Steel to submit the proposal before the DFO for further necessary action. The PSC also directed the DFO to upload the site inspection report (Annexure-R/12). Further, the Forest Department and allied authorities, have also conducted repeated inspections and have not found any violation by Jindal Steel warranting stoppage of work.
19. The balance of convenience lies in favour of Jindal Steel and against the Applicant. The Applicant seeks under the guise of interim relief, what is effectively the final relief claimed in the OA. Therefore, in case the present application is allowed then grave prejudice and irreparable damage will be caused to Jindal Steel.
20. It is also submitted that the present Application does not disclose any independent or emergent substantial question relating to environment warranting urgent intervention under Sections 14 or 15 of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.



X

21. It is reiterated that from the record placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal, it is evident that the present Application is founded entirely on unsubstantiated assertions, unsupported by contemporaneous documents and without any urgency. On the contrary, official inspection reports prepared after physical verification categorically negate the Applicant's central premise and confirm that no coal transportation is taking place and that activity is confined to statutorily approved construction.
22. Therefore, if the present application is allowed it would unnecessarily impede a duly regulated and continuously supervised project, despite the absence of any established environmental impact or finding of non-compliance by the competent statutory authorities.
23. In any event, the relief sought in the present Application is unreasonably and wholly disproportionate. Without identifying any specific act, location, or activity causing alleged harm, the Applicant seeks a blanket restraint on all activity within the diverted forest corridor which are undertaken in accordance with law.
24. It is reiterated that the present Application being devoid of merit, unsupported by documents, not maintainable, and constituting an abuse of the process of this Hon'ble Tribunal is liable to be dismissed.
25. The present application therefore ought to be dismissed *in limine*, with costs.



X

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE,  
KOLKATA

IA NO. 8 OF 2026  
IN  
O.A. No. 61 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Satam Patnaik

...Applicant

Versus

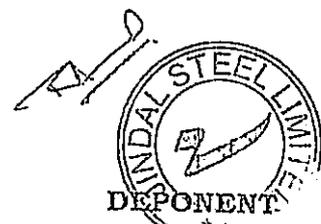
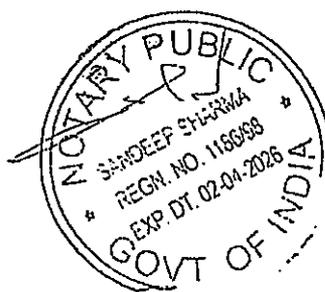
State of Odisha & Ors.

...Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajan Anand S/o B.K. Anand aged about 54 years, Authorized Signatory of Jindal Steel Limited, having its registered office at Jindal Centre, 12 Bhikaji Cama place, New Delhi - 110066, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. I am the Authorized representative of the Respondent No.2 Company, Jindal Steel Limited (formerly known as Jindal Steel & Power Limited) and being fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case I am competent to depose this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No.2.
2. That the contents of the present reply have been drafted under my instructions by my counsel and the same have been read out to me and understood by me. I reaffirm that the contents in the present reply are true statement of facts to the best of my knowledge.
3. That the contents of the present reply are drafted by my counsel and based on legal advice received from the counsel of the Respondent No.2 which I believe to be true.



X

VERIFICATION

Verified that the contents of Paragraph 1 to 3 of the present affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and as derived from the official record. No part of the same is false or misleading and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



- 2 FEB 2026

Verified at \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026



BEFORE ME

*[Signature]*  
**SANDEEP SHARMA**  
Advocate & Notary  
Reg. No. 1186/98/Govt. of India  
505, New Lawyer's Chamber Block  
Patiala House Court Complex  
New Delhi - 110001

- 2 FEB 2026

✕

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN  
TRIBUNAL, EASTERN ZONE, KOLKATA

I. A. No. 8 of 2026

IN

O.A. No. 61 of 2025

In the matter of:

Satam Patnaik

... Applicant

Versus

State of Odisha & Ors.

... Respondents



REPLY ON BEHALF OF JINDAL  
STEEL LIMITED, RESPONDENT  
NO. 2 TO THE APPLICATION FILED  
BY THE APPLICANT

SANDIP AGARWAL & CO.

Advocates

Enrolment No.F/970/945/1992

10, Old Post Office Street,

Ground Floor, Room No.10,

Kolkata-700 001.

M:9831087781

[mailsandipagarwal@gmail.com](mailto:mailsandipagarwal@gmail.com)