

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**
Original Application No. 481/2023

IN THE MATTER OF:

Balbir Sandhu & Ors.

...Applicant(s)

Versus

State of U.P. & Anr.

...Respondent(s)

N.D.O.H. – 02.04.2024

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THROUGH



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New Delhi
Date: 22.03.2024

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

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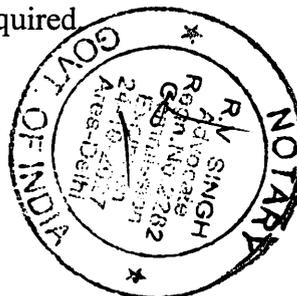
...Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,**FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE.****MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

I, Pankaj Verma, currently working as Scientist 'E' at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I, in my official capacity in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in the above mentioned matter, I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case on the basis of official records, and as such authorized and competent to swear this affidavit.
2. It is submitted that a short affidavit is being filed by the answering respondent at this stage and craves leave and liberty to file a detailed Counter Affidavit to the aforesaid application, as and when required

Pankaj Verma



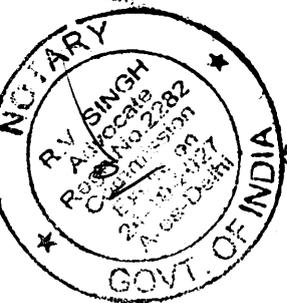
3. That, Hon'ble Tribunal further vide order dated 04.08.2023 and order dated 09.11.2023 directed the Joint Committees to file the report, the Hon'ble tribunal has further directed;

"3. Request is allowed and the report by the Committee mentioned in para no. 7 of order dated 04.08.2023 be filed within two months and report by Committee mentioned in para no. 9 of the order dated 04.08.2023 be filed within four months respectively.

5... List for further consideration on 23.01.2024 for consideration of the report of the Joint Committee mentioned in para no. 7 of order dated 04.08.2023 and on 20.03.2024 for consideration of the report of the Joint Committee mentioned in para no. 9 of order dated 04.08.2023..."

4. That, in compliance to the order dated 04.08.2023 passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal 05 meetings, including site visit has been undertaken by the Joint Committee. Further, in the last meeting held on 18.03.2024, the Chairperson of the Joint Committee during finalization of the report suggested some additional points to incorporate in the report, such as, 'Digital Framework for Regulation of Sand Mining in riverbed'.

5. That, a sub-Group has been constituted comprising Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE), Kosi Katarmal, Almora, Space Applications Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. It is humbly submitted that, the preliminary report has as



Ravindra Singh

directed by NGT have been drafted excluding the Digital Framework for Regulation of Sand Mining in riverbed. However, in view of the aforesaid additional point the sub-group will requires some additional time to collect and analyze the data to finalise the report as per order dated 04.08.2023.

PRAYER

In light of the aforesaid, the respondent No. 2, therefore, prays that this Hon'ble Tribunal may kindly be pleased:

- a. to grant additional time period of 8 weeks to both Joint Committees to enable both the Joint Committees to complete the aforesaid exercise and place on record its final report with regard to para 7 and para 9 of the order dated 04.08.2023 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Pankaj Verma

DEPONENT
(PANKAJ VERMA)
वैज्ञानिक 'ई'/Scientist 'E'
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

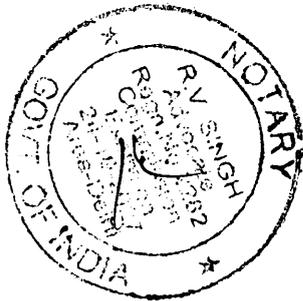
VERIFICATION

Verified at _____ on this 22 MAR 2024 day of _____, 2024 that the contents of this affidavit based on official record(s) maintained and information available in the office are true and correct, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.

Pankaj Verma

DEPONENT
(पंकज वर्मा)
(PANKAJ VERMA)
वैज्ञानिक 'ई'/Scientist 'E'
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय
Min. of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली
Govt. of India, New Delhi

I identify the *[Signature]* who has signed in my presence.



solemnly affirmed before me, read over & explained to the deponent

[Signature]
Notary Public, DELHI

22 MAR 2024