

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH AT NEW DELHI**  
Original Application No. 237/2025

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Narendra Kumar

...Applicant

Versus

State of Haryana & Ors.

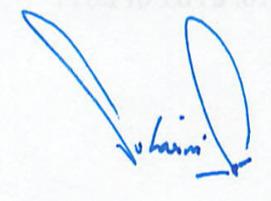
...Respondent(s)

**N.D.O.H.** – 19.12.2025

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**THROUGH**



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New Delhi  
Date: 15.12.2025

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL  
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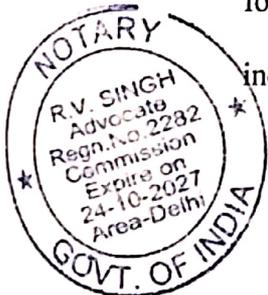
**...Respondent(s)**

**REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 4, MINISTRY  
OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE,**

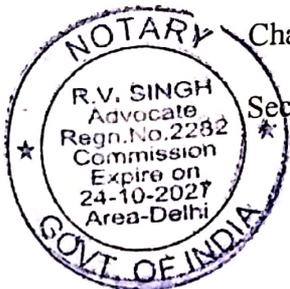
**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

I, Sanjay Kumar Chauhan, aged about 42 years working as Assistant Inspector General of Forests in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as MoEFCC) at New Delhi do hereby solemnly affirm and say on oath that, I am competent, empowered, and authorized to swear this affidavit for and on behalf of the Respondent No. 4.

1. That the instant reply affidavit is being filed by the Answering Respondent without prejudice to his right to file a detailed reply at a later stage, if so necessary. That this deponent reserves its right to file further affidavit, if desired by this Hon'ble Court.
2. That the present affidavit is being filed in compliance with the order dated 14.05.2025, whereby this Hon'ble Court was pleased to take cognizance of the plea of the applicant that, for developing a dumping yard on Panchayat-owned land in Village Pirthla, District Palwal, Haryana, permission had been granted for cutting 43 trees only. However, it is alleged that 68 trees were cut, thereby indicating that 25 trees were felled without authorization.



3. It is humbly submitted that the MoEFCC primarily deals with policy and regulatory issues while the State Governments are responsible the implementation of the policy at the ground level. The key role of the MoEFCC is to frame policy, provide necessary directions, guidance as an advisory capacity, and approvals under the provisions of the relevant Central Acts.
4. The 'land' is a subject matter of the State Government. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That being the repository of land records, the State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regard to gazette notifications, provisions under State and Central Acts, and concerned judgments and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
5. With regards to felling of trees, it is submitted that the protection and management of forests is primarily the responsibility of State Governments /Union Territory Administrations. There are strong legal frameworks for the protection and management of tree resources, which include the National Forest Policy 1988, the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and State Forest Acts/State-specific Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations are responsible for taking appropriate actions in accordance with the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules for regulating the felling of trees.
6. That, the Deputy Director General of Forests (C), Regional Office, MoEFCC, Chandigarh vide letter dated 4th September, 2025, has requested the Principal Secretary, Haryana, vide letter dated 4th September, 2025, has requested the



Additional Chief Secretaries to the Governments of Haryana, to provide the factual status report. A copy of the letters dated 04.09.2025 is attached as Annexure R1.

- 7. The reports from the State is yet to be received in the MoEFCC. The Ministry shall file the report once received.
- 8. That in view of the facts and circumstances narrated above, is submitted that the present reply affidavit may kindly be taken on record and into consideration. The Hon'ble Supreme Court may pass appropriate Order (s), direction (s) as deemed fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the present case.

**DEPONENT**

(संजय कुमार चौहान)  
(SANJAY KUMAR CHAUHAN)  
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक/Asst. Inspector General of Forests  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग  
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi

Identified  
by Adv. Tejasvita Yadav  
UP00615/22

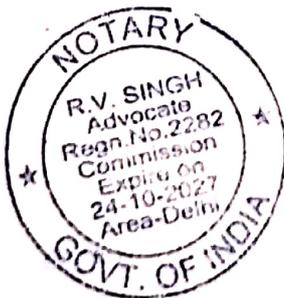
I identified the deponent/excutant who has signed in my presence

**VERIFICATION:**

Verified at on this **15 DEC 2025** day of 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and are based on official records, no part of it is false and nothing material is concealed there from.

**DEPONENT**

(संजय कुमार चौहान)  
(SANJAY KUMAR CHAUHAN)  
सहायक वन महानिरीक्षक/Asst. Inspector General of Forests  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग  
M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली  
Govt. of India, New Delhi



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

Notary Public. **DELHI**

**15 DEC 2025**



भारत सरकार  
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
 पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
 क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, चंडीगढ़ / **Regional Office, Chandigarh**



File No.: 19-CC-033/2025-ROC



Dated: as per e-sign

To,

The Additional Chief Secretary,  
 Department of Environment, Forest and Wildlife,  
 Government of Haryana, Panchkula.

**Sub: Original Application No. 237/2025 in the matter of Narendra Kumar Vs. State of Haryana & Ors. before NGT(PB), New Delhi-reg.**

**Ref: (i). Ministry's email dated:02.09.2025.**

**(ii) Hon'ble NGT(PB), New Delhi order dated:14.05.2025.**

Sir,

With respect to the subject cited above and letter under reference, I am directed to inform that the Ministry(ref-I) has directed this office to seek factual report from the State Government of Haryana, wherein, the applicant has alleged illegal felling/cutting of 25 trees, for developing the dumping yard on Panchayat-owned land in Village Pirthla, District Palwal, Haryana, permission was granted for cutting 43 trees only, but as against this, 68 trees have been cut.

Accordingly, it is requested to the State Government to submit the factual status report in the subject cited court matter to this office **within three days** from the date of issuance of this letter for further necessary action.

This issues with the approval of the DDGF (Central), Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Chandigarh.

Enclosure: as above

Digitally signed by  
 Raja Ram Singh  
 Date: 04-09-2025  
 14:29:29

Yours faithfully,  
 -sd-  
 (Raja Ram Singh)  
 Deputy Inspector General of Forests (Central)  
 Regional Office, Chandigarh

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Haryana, Van Bhawan, Sector-06, Panchkula, Haryana.
2. The Assistant Inspector General of Forest, Forest Protection Division, M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change, (Government of India), Indira Paryavarn Bhawan, New Delhi.



**Original Application No. 237/2025 in the matter of Narendra Kumar Vs. State of Haryana & Ors. before NGT (PB), New Delhi**

1 message

FPD <fpd-moefcc@gov.in>

Tue, 2 Sept 2025 at 2:09 pm

Reply to: fpd-moefcc@gov.in

To: Deputy Director General of Forests <ronz.chd-mef@nic.in>

Cc: Rakesh Jagenia <dlg.fpd-moefcc@gov.in>, SANJAY KUMAR CHAUHAN <sanjay ifs12@mp.gov.in>, moefcc ravi <moefcc.ravi@gmail.com>

Sir,

Kindly find attached the copy of the OA No. 237/2025 in the matter of Narendra Kumar Vs. State of Haryana & Ors. filed before NGT (PB), New Delhi

2. In the instant case, UOI through Secretary MoEF&CC is made respondent no. 4.

3. The case is reg. cutting of trees in Village Pirthla, District Palwal, Haryana whereas permission was granted for cutting of 43 trees

only but as against this 68 trees have been cut.

4. In this regard, Regional Office Chandigarh is requested to obtain a factual report on the allegations made in the application

from the Haryana Forest Department urgently.

4. The case is listed for hearing on **18.09.2025**.

With best regards,

Forest Protection Division  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Government of India)  
Indira Paryavarn Bhawan  
5th Floor, Agni Wing, Jor Bagh Road  
New Delhi-110003



**OA 237 of 2025.pdf**  
6.3 MB