

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

Execution Application .No. 26 of 2025 in OA No.351 of 2019

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

..... **Petitioner/Applicant**

VS


UT of Jammu & Kashmir & Or.

..... **Respondent(s)**

IN THE MATTER OF:-

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 Respondent No. 1 and 3
 Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
 Through Counsel.

Dated 06.04.2026

Gautam Singh Advocate
Chamber No.71, Supreme Court
Compound, Supreme Court of
India.

Execution Application No. 26 of 2025 in O. A. No. 351 of 2019

Raja Muzaffar Bhat (Applicant)

Versus

State of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors (Respondents)

In the matter of:- Reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1 & 3 Union Territory of J&K to the Additional Affidavit dated: 20.11.2025 filed by the applicant in the above titled Execution Application.

Ma it please your Lordships:-

The answering respondents most respectfully submit as under.

Background

- 1 That it is respectfully submitted that the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal bench on dated: 25.11.2021 was pleased to disposed of the above titled Original Application No. 351 of 2019
- 2 That in compliance with the said Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directions, the answering Respondents formulate a scientifically **structured Integrated Management Plan (IMAP)** for conservation and habitat restoration of wetland centres falling under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife Protection J&K and other Wetlands Division, J&K and acted with promptitude and seriousness. Consequently, a comprehensive **Integrated Management Plan was formulated, finalized and duly approved in the year 2022**, with a defined **plan period of five years (2022-2027)**. The said plan was prepared on scientific principles of wetland ecology, hydrology, habitat restoration, avifaunal conservation and climate resilience.
- 3 That the approved Management Plan proposed a **financial outlay of ₹42.70 Crores** for implementation of phased habitat restoration and conservation measures during the first plan period. The major recommended interventions included, inter alia:
 - Construction and installation of sluice gates for scientific water regulation;
 - Embankment consolidation and strengthening for flood mitigation and water retention;
 - Installation of floating solid waste trash barriers at feeder inlets;
 - Periodic and continuous clearance of floating vegetation prior to migratory bird season;
 - Construction of navigation channels for improved interior patrolling;
 - Chain-link fencing in vulnerable stretches for boundary protection;
 - Development of basic infrastructure for frontline field staff;
 - Scientific habitat improvement measures in Hokersar, Shalbugh and Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserves.
 - Phased restoration of phased channels
 - De-silting of critically silted up areas
- 4 That it is **categorically clarified** that the proposed outlay of ₹42.70 Crores was **never released in lump sum** to the Wetlands Division. The major source of funding for the Division remains CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority). Funds are sought and released strictly on the basis of **Annual Plans of Operation (APOs)**, submitted each financial year, subject to administrative and financial approval.
- 5 That as already placed on record before this Hon'ble Tribunal, that during the last four financial years (FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26), a cumulative amount of **₹11.65 Crores** has been released in favour of the Wetlands Division. Out of the released funds:

Sharma
Under Secretary to
Forest, Ecology &
Deptt

- Approximately **80% has been earmarked and utilized directly for habitat restoration activities**, and
- Approximately **20% has been utilized for minor infrastructure development, institutional strengthening and statutory responsibilities**, including mitigation of human-wildlife conflict in District Budgam (which lies in the foothills of the Pir Panjal range and presents recurring man-animal conflict challenges managed by this Division).

Thus, against a projected plan outlay of ₹42.70 Crores for five years, only ₹11.65 Crores have been released so far in phased manner, and implementation has proceeded accordingly on a **financially regulated and scientifically phased basis**.

- 6 That pursuant to the approved IMAP, the Department has, inter alia:
- Constructed and consolidated embankments extending to approximately **5 kilometers** across different wetlands;
 - Installed approximately **2,500 RFT of chain-link fencing**, with **350 RFT repaired/upgraded**;
 - Installed floating trash barriers at feeder channels;
 - Undertaken continuous periodic cleaning of floating vegetation and solid waste;
 - Constructed navigation channels for improved patrolling and habitat management;
 - Installed sluice gates in Hygam and Shalbugh Wetlands;
 - Strengthened field infrastructure for effective conservation enforcement.
 - Nearly 4 km of peripheral channels restored
- 7 That it is further respectfully submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal that one of the internationally recognized indicators of wetland ecological health is the magnitude, diversity, and continuity of migratory water bird visitation during the winter season.

In this regard, it is placed on record that the Department of Wildlife Protection conducts the **Asian Water bird Census (AWC)** annually across the wetland network of Kashmir, in coordination with national and international conservation protocols. The Census is a globally recognized scientific exercise for monitoring migratory water bird populations and assessing habitat quality.

- 8 That it is respectfully submitted that during the last two consecutive winter seasons, i.e., **2024 and 2025**, the cumulative migratory bird count across the wetlands of Kashmir has **exceeded 12 lakh (1.2 million) individuals each year**. These birds migrate from diverse geographical regions including Central Asia, Siberia, Europe, and other transcontinental flyways, and remain in Kashmir wetlands for approximately three to four months during peak winter.
- 9 That the sustained and significant presence of such a large migratory population is a strong ecological indicator that:

- The hydrological regime of the wetlands remains functional,
- The food chain and nutrient cycles remain active,
- Habitat quality is conducive for long-duration avifaunal habitation,
- Anthropogenic disturbances are being regulated effectively.
- Migratory water birds are highly sensitive to habitat degradation. Their repeated and substantial return to these wetlands over consecutive seasons strongly demonstrates that the conservation and habitat restoration interventions undertaken pursuant to the approved Integrated Management Plan are yielding measurable ecological outcomes.
- It is therefore respectfully submitted that the empirical avifaunal data recorded under the Asian Waterbird Census provides independent scientific validation that the wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Respondent Department are being managed in a structured, phased, and ecologically responsive manner in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
- It is respectfully and emphatically submitted that **the Respondent Department has implemented, and continues to implement, the recommendations of the Integrated Management Plan in a structured,**

W. Sharma
Under Secretary to Govt
Forest, Ecology & Env.
Deptt.

scientific, and phased manner since its approval in 2022. The implementation is going on and aligned strictly with financial releases, ecological priorities, and Hon'ble Tribunal directions.

- The Department remains firmly committed to complete implementation of the Management Plan within the stipulated plan period (2022-2027), subject to annual financial approvals and ecological feasibility. Copy of communication of Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) Chief Wildlife Warden, UT of J&K received Vide No. WLP/Legal/2026/33 dated: 25.03.2026 is enclosed herewith and marked as **Annexure R-I**.

Without prejudice to the foregoing Paras, the wise reply of the Additional Affidavit is submitted as under.

1. That in reply to point 1 of the affidavit, it is submitted that the contents of the point 1 pertains to the record. Hence needs no reply.
2. That the contents of Point No. 2 are a matter of record. However, the allegations and inferences drawn therein are denied unless specifically admitted hereunder.
3. That the allegations regarding dumping of solid waste in **Hokersar Wetland** and **Kreentchoo-Chandhara Wetland** are denied as being factually incorrect and misleading. No designated dumping site exists within the demarcated boundaries of **Hokersar Wetland** or **Kreentchoo-Chandhara Wetland**, nor does any legacy waste site exist inside the notified wetland areas under the jurisdiction of this Department. The wetlands are being managed as Conservation Reserves under **the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, and strict regulatory control is maintained.

Certain habitations exist around the peripheries of these wetlands and, in isolated instances, minor littering by unidentified persons along the outer fringes has been noticed. In such cases, notices are served to them from time to time and preventive measures are taken, which act as a deterrent. Routine and frequent cleanliness drives are undertaken along the peripheries to ensure that no waste remains inside the protected wetland boundaries.

4. That the allegation that no action has been taken pursuant to the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal is denied. The Department is continuously implementing the approved Integrated Management Plans through structured Annual Plans of Operation and periodic field interventions in compliance with the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
5. That the assertion that Rs. 46.70 Crores have been released in favour of this Division for wetland management is completely incorrect and misleading. Funds are not released in lump sum on the basis of total IMAP estimates. The major source of funding is CAMPA. Annual Plans of Operation are submitted every financial year for approval, and the financial ceiling is predetermined annually.

From Financial Year 2022-23 to 2025-26, a total amount of Rs. 11.65 Crores has been released under CAMPA in favour of this Division, out of which approximately Rs. 8 Crores has been expended, the balance being attributable majorly to tender savings in awarded works.

Approximately 80% of the released funds are utilized directly for wetland management activities in line with CAMPA guidelines, while the remaining portion is utilized for minor infrastructure, institutional strengthening, and statutory responsibilities including mitigation of human-wildlife conflict in District Budgam. This factual

A. Sharma
Under Secretary to Govt.
Forest, Ecology & Env.
Deptt.

position completely nullifies the claim that Rs. 46.70 Crores have been released and remained unutilized.

Substantial works have been undertaken in phased manner, including installation of solid waste trash barriers, restoration of peripheral and feeder channels, desilting of critically silted zones, creation of boat channels, plugging of breaches, eco-tourism initiatives near **Hokersar Wetland**, and periodic cleanliness drives.

6. That in reply to **point 6 (i) Hokersar wetland**, the allegation regarding accumulation of solid waste inside Hokersar Wetland is denied. The solid waste visible near the inlet is primarily carried through the Doodhganga Flood Spill Channel, which transports floating municipal waste during high discharge events. The inflow of such waste is a recurring hydrological phenomenon. The Department carries out periodic and continuous cleanliness drives to remove accumulated waste. The solid waste entering through the Doodhganga channel is recurring in nature; therefore, periodic and continuous operations are essential.

Chain-link fencing cannot be installed as a mechanism to stop floating solid waste entering through a flowing water channel. Chain-link fencing is a boundary consolidation measure intended to prevent encroachment. **Approximately 2,500 running feet (RFT) of new chain-link fencing has been installed, constructed, and about 325 RFT of existing fencing has been upgraded or repaired to strengthen boundary protection.**

Solid waste barriers have been installed near the inlet to intercept floating waste. During exceptionally high discharge, temporary entry of waste may occur, which is subsequently cleared through scheduled drives.

Photographs shared from time to time may present a misleading impression when captured immediately prior to a scheduled cleanliness drive. The Respondent proposes to place on record before-and-after photographs demonstrating the effect of periodic clearance operations.

Point No. 6(ii) – Second Part (Wular Lake)

That in reply to point 6 it is respectfully submitted that, in compliance with the submissions made before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 351/2019, the earlier solid waste dumping site at Zalwan, Bandipora, which was located within the Wular Lake boundary, has been permanently closed. The said site has been cleared and restored, and no further dumping is taking place at that location (photographs enclosed as Annexure-1).

Subsequently, as communicated by the Municipal Committee Bandipora vide letter No. MC/Bpr/Esst/20/1001-05 dated 04.08.2020, solid waste disposal is presently being carried out at a site located at Bandipora Bund side, comprising 35 kanals of land allocated by the District Administration. The said site is also at Zalwan but is situated approximately 1,650 feet (about 503 meters) from the demarcated boundary of Wular Lake and lies outside both the notified wetland boundary and its buffer/zone of influence, thereby ensuring compliance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

It is further submitted that the present Bandipora Bund side site at Aalwan is an interim arrangement also. The District Administration has identified an alternative site measuring 20 kanals at Mader Kunan

A. Sharma

Under Secretary to Govt
Forest, Ecology & Env
Deptt

(Kunan), Bandipora, for establishment of a permanent Solid Waste Management facility. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora, vide letter No. MC/BPR/G/2025/3293-96 Dated 12.08.2025 has reported that the said site has been earmarked for setting up a comprehensive Solid Waste management plant. The development of this facility requires substantial financial resources, and reasonable time has been sought to operationalize a permanent waste management system at a location further away from the periphery of Wularlake. The attached Figure II map confirms the spatial location of the current site relative to Wular Lake's boundaries.

It is therefore, clarified that

- The earlier dumping site at Zalwan within proximity to the Wular boundary has been permanently closed and cleared.
- The current waste disposal arrangement at Bandipora Bund side in the same locality of Zalwan is located approximately 503 meters outside the notified wetland and buffer boundaries and is compliant with applicable regulations.
- The process of shifting to a permanent Solid Waste Management facility at kunan, Bandipora, further away from Wular Lake, is underway in coordination with the District Administration.

This demonstrates that no dumping presently takes place within the notified wetland boundary of Wular Lake, and steps are being taken to establish a scientifically managed, permanent facility in accordance with environmental norms. Copy of communication of Wular Conservation and Management Authority Kashmir received vide No. PC/CAT/WUCMA/2025-26/2166-69 dated 12.02.2025 is enclosed herewith and marked as **Annexure R-II**.

Point No. 6 (iii) Third Part (Kranchoo Chandhara Wetland)

The road shown in the photographs is an old track that existed much prior to the year 2013 when this department took over this wetland for management from district administration of Pulwama and is not a newly constructed road as alleged. The said track does not pass through any wetland land formally taken over by the Department of Wildlife Protection. In the year 2013, the Department took possession of 128 Kanals and 19 Marlas of land in **Kranchoo Wetland**. The track does not traverse through the land parcel so taken over by the Department. No fresh construction, widening, upgradation, or permission for any road development has been granted within the demarcated and acquired wetland area under the jurisdiction of this Division.

The allegation of illegal construction inside the protected wetland boundary is factually incorrect and vehemently denied.

The contents of Point No. 7 are denied. The Department is fully compliant with the directions of this Hon'ble National Green Tribunal and is implementing management measures in phased, structured, and financially regulated manner. There is no willful or deliberate non-compliance.

[Handwritten Signature]

Under Secretary to Govt
Forest, Ecology & Env
Deptt

Photographic evidences:



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Under Secretary to Govt
 Forest, Ecology & Env
 Deptt



An affidavit in support of this reply/response is enclosed herewith.

It is therefore, humbly prayed that the reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1 & 3 Union Territory of J&K to the Additional Affidavit dated 20.11.2025 filed by the applicant in the above titled Execution Application may kindly be taken on record and disposed of the said execution application.

Sharma
Respondent No. 1 & 3

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Through Counsel

Dated 06 .04.2026

Gautam Singh Advocate
Chamber No. 71, Supreme
Court Compound,
Supreme Court of India
Contact No. 9970179706.
Email@gautamsinghh.com

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

Execution Application No. 26 of 2025 in O.A. No. 351/2019

IN THE CASE OF:

Raja Muzaffar Bhat

....**APPLICANT/PETITIONER**

VS

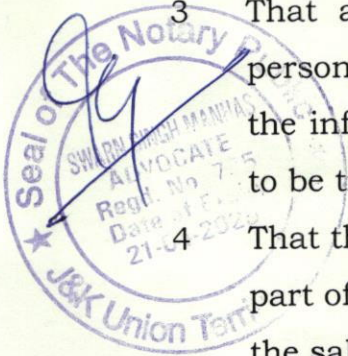
UT of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors.

.....**RESPONDENTS**

**IN THE MATTER OF: AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ACCOMPANYING
REPLY/RESPONSE.**

I, Raj Kumar age 49 years S/o Shri Balkrishan presently posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, UT of Jammu & Kashmir hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under

- 1 That I am presently posted as Under Secretary to the Government, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, UT of Jammu & Kashmir and is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and is thus competent and duly authorized to depose the same on the present affidavit.
- 2 That I have gone through the contents of the accompanying reply/response.
- 3 That all statements of facts made by the deponent are true to my personal knowledge and all the statements of law are correct according to the information received by me from Department and I believe the same to be true.
- 4 That the contents of the accompanying application may kindly be read as part of the present affidavit as the same are not being repeated herein for the sake of brevity and to avoid prolixity.



Swarni Singh Maniyas
DEPONENT
Under Secretary to Govt
Forest, Ecology & Env
Deptt

VERIFICATION:-

I, the above-named deponent do hereby verify that the contents of the above affidavit from Para 1 to 4 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed herein.

Verified at Jammu on this 20th th Day of April, 2026.

Solemnly Affirmed by me
Swarni Singh Maniyas
20/4/2026
NOTARY JAMMU

Swarni Singh Maniyas
DEPONENT
Under Secretary to Govt
Forest, Ecology & Env
Deptt

Annexure R-I. ①

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE PR. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE)/
CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN

The Commissioner / Secretary to Government
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department
Civil Secretariat J&K

No: WLP/Legal/2026/33

Date: 25.03.2026

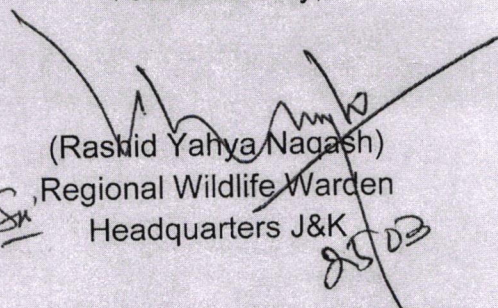
Subject: Submission of parawise counter reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1 and 3 to the Additional Affidavit dated 20.11.2025 filed by the applicant in the case "E.A. No. 26/2025 in O.A. No. 351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir and others".

Madam,

Kindly refer to the subject cited above, in this regard, I am directed to enclose a copy of draft parawise counter reply in the above titled case for your kind perusal and necessary action. The case is now listed for hearing on 19.05.2026 in the Hon'ble Court of National Green Tribunal.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: as above


(Rashid Yahya Naqash)
Regional Wildlife Warden
Headquarters J&K
25/03

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

E A No. 26 of 2025 in O. A. No. 351 of 2019

Raja Muzaffar Bhat (Applicant)

Versus

State of Jammu & Kashmir & Ors (Respondents)

In the matter of: Reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1 & 3 Union Territory of J&K to the Additional Affidavit dated 20.11.2025 filed by the applicant in the above titled Original Application.

Ma it please your Lordships:-

The answering respondents most respectfully submit as under.

Background

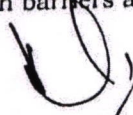
1 That it is respectfully submitted before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal that in Original Application No. 351 of 2019, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 25.11.2021 was pleased to pass the following directions.

15" we have noted that the stand of learned Chief Secretary, J&K that the execution plans will be over seen on regular basis by the secretary Environment and Forest, J&K as well as by the chief Secretary, J&K personally atleast once for further continuous action. As regards the suggestions of the applicant, the same may be duly considered by the chief Secretary, J&K to the extent not already considered.

2 That in compliance with the said Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directions, the answering Respondents formulate a scientifically **structured Integrated Management Plan (IMAP)** for conservation and habitat restoration of wetland centres falling under the jurisdiction of the Department of Wildlife Protection J&K and other Wetlands Division, J&K and acted with promptitude and seriousness. Consequently, a comprehensive **Integrated Management Plan was formulated, finalized and duly approved in the year 2022**, with a defined **plan period of five years (2022-2027)**. The said plan was prepared on scientific principles of wetland ecology, hydrology, habitat restoration, avifaunal conservation and climate resilience.

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- Periodic and continuous clearance of floating vegetation prior to migratory bird season;
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 - Development of basic infrastructure for frontline field staff;
 - Scientific habitat improvement measures in Hokersar, Shalbugh and Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserves.
 - Phased restoration of phased channels
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- 4 That it is **categorically clarified** that the proposed outlay of ₹42.70 Crores was **never released in lump sum** to the Wetlands Division. The major source of funding for the Division remains CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority). Funds are sought and released strictly on the basis of **Annual Plans of Operation (APOs)**, submitted each financial year, subject to administrative and financial approval.
- 5 That as already placed on record before this Hon'ble Tribunal, that during the last four financial years (FY 2022-23 to FY 2025-26), a cumulative amount of **₹11.65 Crores** has been released in favour of the Wetlands Division. Out of the released funds:
- Approximately **80%** has been earmarked and utilized directly for **habitat restoration activities**, and
 - Approximately **20%** has been utilized for **minor infrastructure development, institutional strengthening and statutory responsibilities**, including mitigation of human-wildlife conflict in District Budgam (which lies in the foothills of the Pir Panjal range and presents recurring man-animal conflict challenges managed by this Division).
- Thus, against a projected plan outlay of ₹42.70 Crores for five years, only ₹11.65 Crores have been released so far in phased manner, and implementation has proceeded accordingly on a **financially regulated and scientifically phased basis**.
- 6 That pursuant to the approved IMAP, the Department has, inter alia:
- Constructed and consolidated embankments extending to approximately **5 kilometers** across different wetlands;
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 - Nearly 4 km Of peripheral channels restored
- 7 That it is further respectfully submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal that one of the internationally recognized indicators of wetland ecological health is the magnitude, diversity, and continuity of migratory water bird visitation during the winter season.

In this regard, it is placed on record that the Department of Wildlife Protection conducts the **Asian Water bird Census (AWC)** annually across the wetland network of Kashmir, in coordination with national and international conservation protocols. The Census is a globally recognized scientific exercise for monitoring migratory water bird populations and assessing habitat quality.

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- 9 That the sustained and significant presence of such a large migratory population is a strong ecological indicator that:
- The hydrological regime of the wetlands remains functional,
 - The food chain and nutrient cycles remain active,
 - Habitat quality is conducive for long-duration avifaunal habitation,
 - Anthropogenic disturbances are being regulated effectively.
 - Migratory water birds are highly sensitive to habitat degradation. Their repeated and substantial return to these wetlands over consecutive seasons strongly demonstrates that the conservation and habitat restoration interventions undertaken pursuant to the approved Integrated Management Plan are yielding measurable ecological outcomes.
 - It is therefore respectfully submitted that the empirical avifaunal data recorded under the Asian Waterbird Census provides independent scientific validation that the wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Respondent Department are being managed in a structured, phased, and ecologically responsive manner in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
 - It is respectfully and emphatically submitted that **the Respondent Department has implemented, and continues to implement, the recommendations of the Integrated Management Plan in a structured, scientific, and phased manner since its approval in 2022**. The implementation is ongoing and aligned strictly with financial releases, ecological priorities, and Hon'ble Tribunal directions.
 - The Department remains firmly committed to complete implementation of the Management Plan within the stipulated plan period (2022-2027), subject to annual financial approvals and ecological feasibility.

Without prejudice to the foregoing Paras, the wise reply of the Additional Affidavit is submitted as under.

1. That in reply to point 1 of the affidavit, it is submitted that the contents of the point 1 pertains to the record. Hence needs no reply.
2. That the contents of Point No. 2 are a matter of record. However, the allegations and inferences drawn therein are denied unless specifically admitted hereunder.
3. That the allegations regarding dumping of solid waste in Hokersar Wetland and Kranchoo-Chandhara Wetland are denied as being

factually incorrect and misleading. No designated dumping site exists within the demarcated boundaries of Hokersar Wetland or Kranchoo-Chandhara Wetland, nor does any legacy waste site exist inside the notified wetland areas under the jurisdiction of this Department. The wetlands are being managed as Conservation Reserves under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and strict regulatory control is maintained.

Certain habitations exist around the peripheries of these wetlands and, in isolated instances, minor littering by unidentified persons along the outer fringes has been noticed. In such cases, notices are served from time to time and preventive measures are taken, which act as a deterrent. Routine and frequent cleanliness drives are undertaken along the peripheries to ensure that no waste remains inside the protected wetland boundaries.

4. That the allegation that no action has been taken pursuant to the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal is denied. The Department is continuously implementing the approved Integrated Management Plans through structured Annual Plans of Operation and periodic field interventions in compliance with the orders of this Hon'ble Tribunal.
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From Financial Year 2022-23 to 2025-26, a total amount of Rs. 11.65 Crores has been released under CAMPA in favour of this Division, out of which approximately Rs. 8 Crores has been expended, the balance being attributable majorly to tender savings in awarded works.

Approximately 80% of the released funds are utilized directly for wetland management activities in line with CAMPA guidelines, while the remaining portion is utilized for minor infrastructure, institutional strengthening, and statutory responsibilities including mitigation of human-wildlife conflict in District Budgam. This factual position completely nullifies the claim that Rs. 46.70 Crores have been released and remained unutilized.

Substantial works have been undertaken in phased manner, including installation of solid waste trash barriers, restoration of peripheral and feeder channels, desilting of critically silted zones, creation of boat channels, plugging of breaches, eco-tourism initiatives near Hokersar Wetland, and periodic cleanliness drives.

6. The allegation regarding accumulation of solid waste inside Hokersar Wetland is denied. The solid waste visible near the inlet is primarily carried through the Doodhganga Flood Spill Channel, which transports floating municipal waste during high discharge events. The inflow of such waste is a recurring hydrological phenomenon.

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Photographs shared from time to time may present a misleading impression when captured immediately prior to a scheduled cleanliness drive. The Respondent proposes to place on record before-and-after photographs demonstrating the effect of periodic clearance operations.

Point No. 6 -- Second Part (Wular Lake)

The contents of this part do not pertain to the Wetland Division under the Department of Wildlife Protection and fall within the jurisdiction of the Wular Conservation and Management Authority. Therefore, no reply is warranted from this Division. This para **pertains to WCMA**

Point No. 6 -- Third Part (Kranchoo Chandhara Wetland)

The road shown in the photographs is an old track that existed much prior to the year 2013 when this department took over this wetland for management from district administration of Pulwama and is not a newly constructed road as alleged. The said track does not pass through any wetland land formally taken over by the Department of Wildlife Protection.

In the year 2013, the Department took possession of 128 Kanals and 19 Marlas of land in Kranchoo Wetland. The track does not traverse through the land parcel so taken over by the Department. No fresh construction, widening, upgradation, or permission for any road

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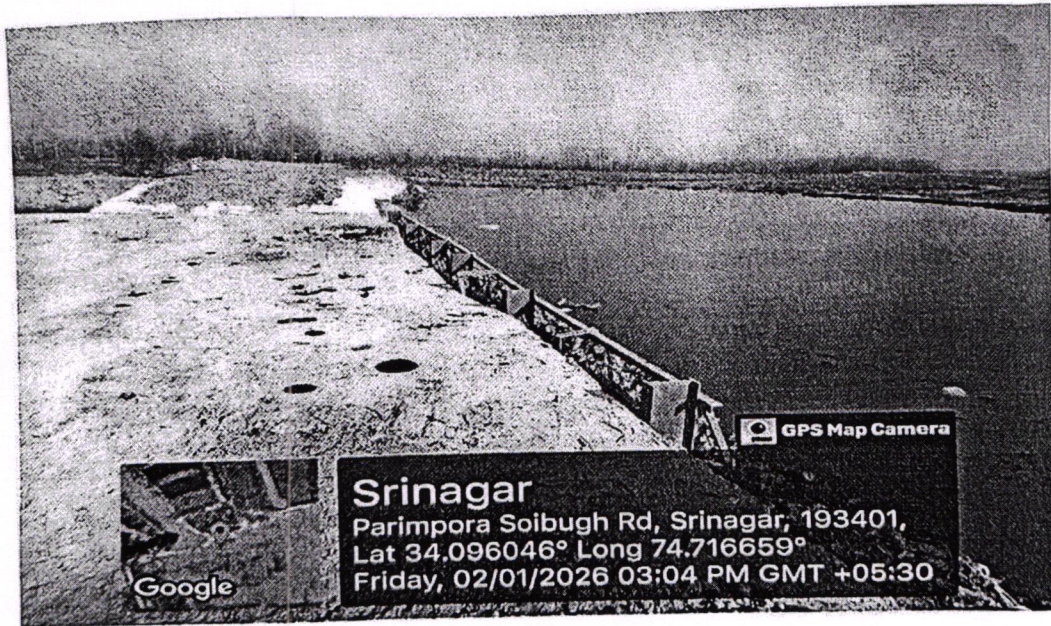
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development has been granted within the demarcated and acquired wetland area under the jurisdiction of this Division.

The allegation of illegal construction inside the protected wetland boundary is factually incorrect and emphatically denied.

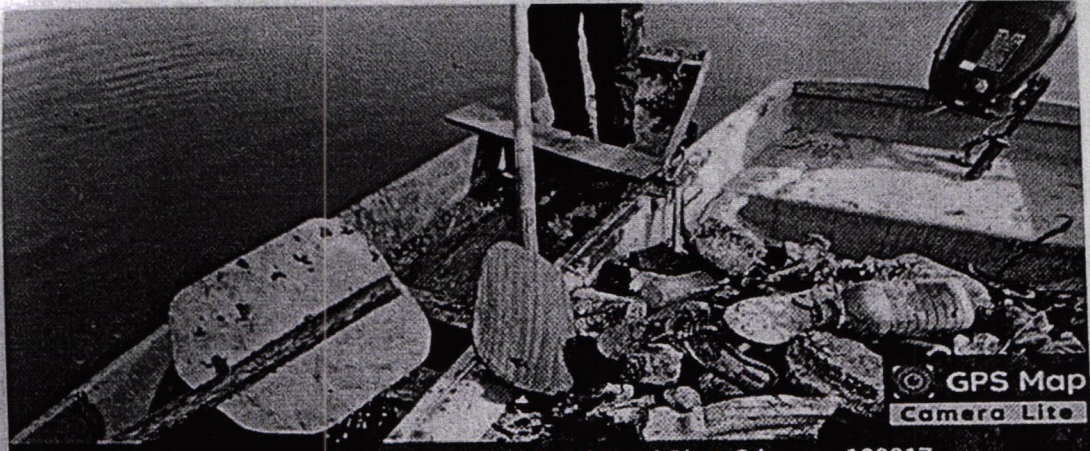
- 7. The contents of Point No. 7 are denied. The Department is fully compliant with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal and is implementing management measures in phased, structured, and financially regulated manner. There is no willful or deliberate non-compliance.

Photographic evidences:



M

D



GPS Map
Camera Lite

Hokersar Bund Road, Ali Abad Gund Hassi Bhat, Srinagar, 190017

Latitude
34.106395°

Longitude
74.71588666666666°

Local 01:00:37 PM
GMT 07:30:37 AM

Altitude 1582 meters
Sunday, 28.12.2025

Note : colecting solid waste inside Hokersar wetland at 9no pool



GPS Map Camera

Srinagar
Parimpora Solbugh Rd, Srinagar, 193401,
Lat 34.0965° Long 74.718062°
Friday, 02/01/2026 02:55 PM GMT +05:30

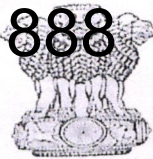
Google

(Handwritten signatures)



An affidavit in support this reply is enclosed herewith.

It is, therefore, humbly prayed that the reply to the Additional Affidavit of the applicant on behalf of respondent No. 1 & 3 Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir may be place on record for the kind consideration of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Wular Conservation and Management Authority Kashmir

The Under Secretary to Government,
Department of Forests, Ecology and Environment,
Civil Secretariat, J and K.

No. PC/CAT/WUCMA/2025-26/ 2166-69

Dated:- 12 -02-2026

Subject: E.A. No.26/2025 in O.A. No.351/2019 titled Raja Muzaffar Bhat Vs State of Jammu and Kashmir & Ors.

Reference: Your office letter No: FST-Lit/82/2025(7629435) dated: 19-11-2025.

Sir,

With reference to the subject matter, kindly find herewith the response in respect of this authority as under:

Point No. 6 (ii)-Wullar Lake	Response
<p>The dumping of municipal solid waste in the Wular lake, which is a Ramsar Site is still continuing. No steps have been taken by the Municipal Council Bandipora.</p>	<p>It is respectfully submitted that, in compliance with the submissions made before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in O.A. No. 351/2019, the earlier solid waste dumping site at Zalwan, Bandipora, which was located within the Wular Lake boundary, has been permanently closed. The said site has been cleared and restored, and no further dumping is taking place at that location (photographs enclosed as Annexure-1).</p> <p>Subsequently, as communicated by the Municipal Committee Bandipora vide letter No. MC/Bpr/Esst/20/1001-05 dated 04.08.2020, solid waste disposal is presently being carried out at a site located at Bandipora Bund side, comprising 35 kanals of land allocated by the District Administration. The said site is also at Zalwan but is situated approximately 1,650 feet (about 503 meters) from the demarcated boundary of Wular Lake and lies outside both the notified wetland boundary and its buffer/zone of influence, thereby ensuring compliance with the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.</p> <p>It is further submitted that the present Bandipora Bund side site at Zalwan is an interim arrangement also. The District Administration has identified an alternative site measuring 20 kanals at Mader Kunan (Kunan), Bandipora, for establishment of a permanent Solid Waste Management facility. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora, vide letter No. MC/BPR/G/2025/3293-96 dated 12.08.2025, has reported that the said site has been earmarked for setting up a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plant. The development of this facility requires substantial financial resources, and reasonable time has been sought to operationalize a permanent waste management system at a location further away from the periphery of Wular Lake. The attached Figure II map confirms the spatial location of the current site relative to Wular Lake's boundaries. (Annexure-II)</p>

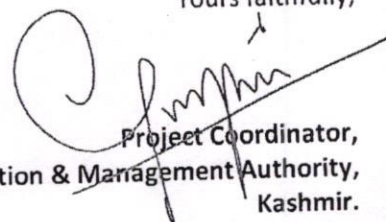
CA

It is, therefore, clarified that:

- The earlier dumping site at Zalwan within proximity to the Wular boundary has been permanently closed and cleaned.
- The current waste disposal arrangement at Bandipora Bund side in the same locality of Zalwan is located approximately 503 meters outside the notified wetland and buffer boundaries and is compliant with applicable wetland regulations.
- The process of shifting to a permanent Solid Waste Management facility at Kunan, Bandipora, further away from Wular Lake, is underway in coordination with the District Administration.

This demonstrates that no dumping presently takes place within the notified wetland boundary of Wular Lake, and steps are being taken to establish a scientifically managed, permanent facility in accordance with environmental norms.

Yours faithfully,



Project Coordinator,
Wular Conservation & Management Authority,
Kashmir.

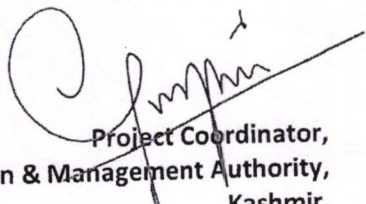
Copy to the:

1. Chief Executive Director, Wular Conservation & Management Authority, Kashmir for favour of information please.
2. Member Secretary, J&K Pollution Control Committee for favour of information please.
3. Coordinator, Water Management, WUCMA for information.

Annexure-1



Figure 1: Before and after images of Waste dumping site at Zalwan located within wular Lake boundary and which stands relocated now.


Project Coordinator,
Wular Conservation & Management Authority,
Kashmir.

Annexure-II

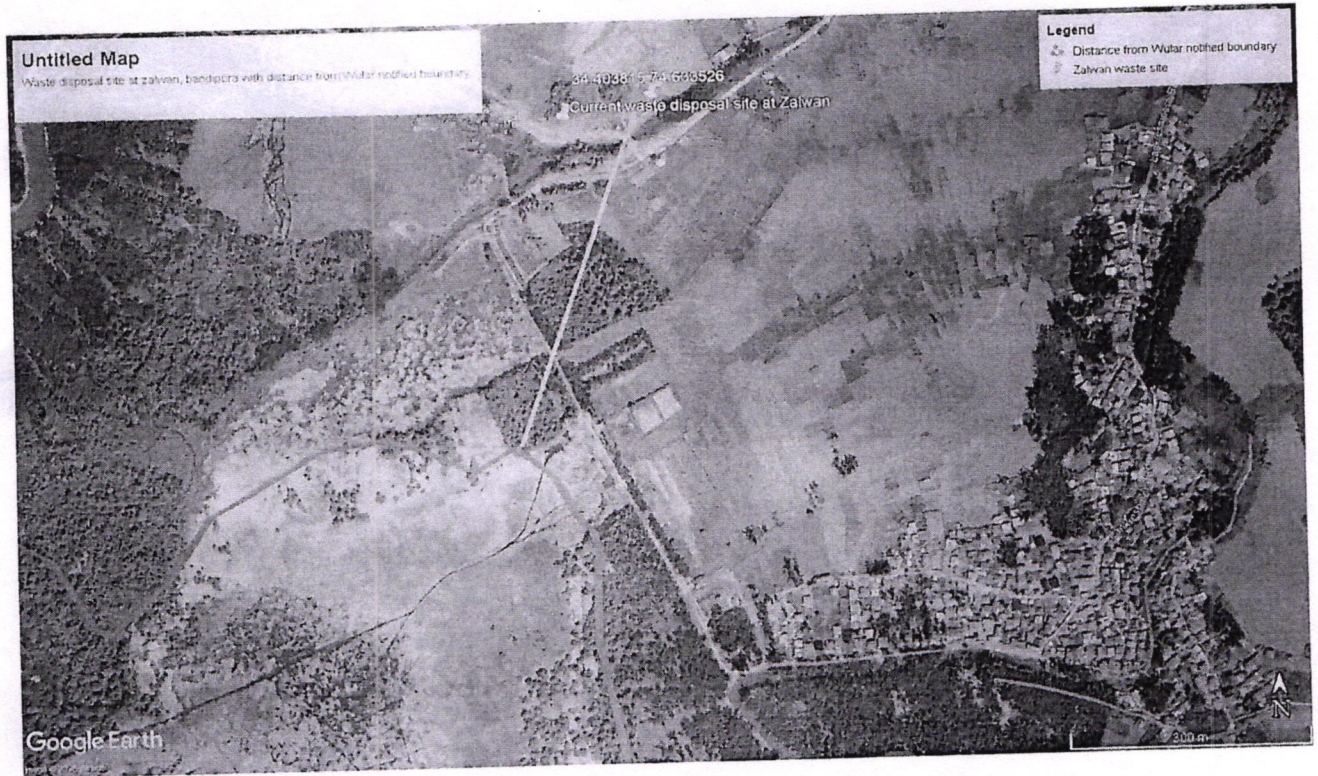
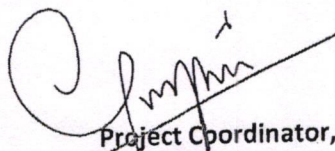


Figure 2: The spatial location of the current waste dumping site at Zalwan relative to Wular Lake's boundaries (in red).


Project Coordinator,
Wular Conservation & Management Authority,
Kashmir.