

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

Original Application No. 1339/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:-

News item titled "Ladakh bird life comprising 430 species in dire need of protection" appearing in ETV Bharat dated 16.11.2024

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Filed By:-

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NEW DELHI


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Deputy Commissioner
Leh - Ladakh



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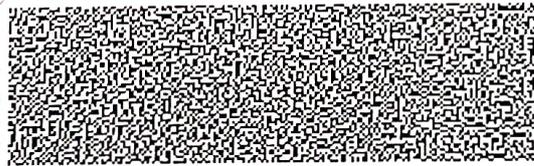
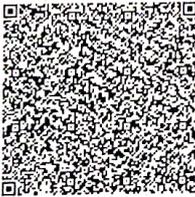
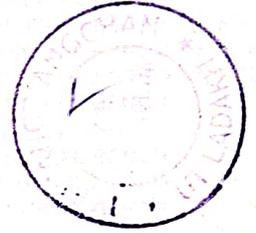
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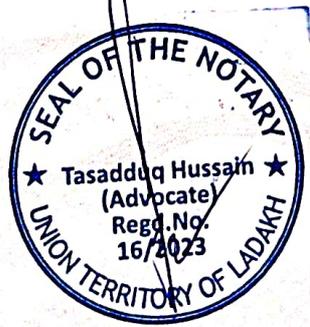
**THE ADMINISTRATION OF
UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH**

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

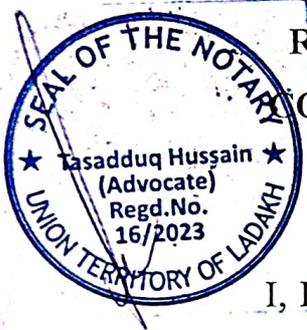
Original Application No. 1339/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:-

News item titled "Ladakh bird life comprising 430 species in dire need of protection" appearing in ETV Bharat dated 16.11.2024

REPLY BY WAY OF AFFIDAVIT FOR AND BY THE DEPUTY
COMMISSIONER, LEH, UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH—i.e.

R-4



I, Romil Singh Donk, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Union Territory Ladakh, do hereby solemnly affirm and respectfully submitted as under:

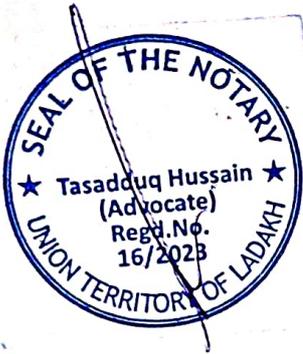
- A. That vide order dated 28-11-2024 the Hon'ble Tribunal pleased to implead the Deputy Commissioner, Leh, Union Territory Ladakh, as R-4 in the present OA.

1. Introduction

- B. The present affidavit is being filed in response to the directions of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in Original Application No. 1339/2024, wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal has sought the Department's response in view of the news article titled "*Ladakh Birdlife Comprising 430 Species in Dire Need of Protection*" published by ETV Bharat.


Deputy Commissioner
Leh - Ladakh

C. The article draws attention to the exceptional avian diversity of Ladakh, recording over 430 species of birds, including several rare, threatened, and migratory species of global significance. It highlights iconic species such as the Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), as well as other resident, migratory, passage migrant, and vagrant species. The article also notes observations by local experts on shifts in migration timing and distribution patterns, which they partly attribute to climate change, as well as isolated sightings of species unusual for the region, possibly linked to changing weather and habitat conditions.



D. That the Chief wildlife warden, Ladakh as R-5 has already filed the reply by way of affidavit to the present OA.

E. That the answering respondent no.4 is hereby adopt the reply by way of affidavit filed by the R-5.

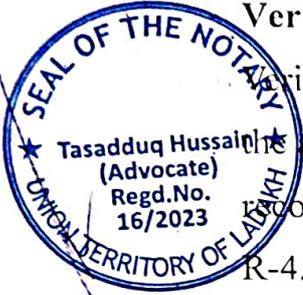
F. That the answering respondent No.4 crave leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal, if in future any further reply is required to be filed by the R-4, then the R-4 will prayer to permit to the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional reply to the present OA.

G. That the answering respondent no.4 hereby undertakes to abide by the orders and direction passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal.


Deputy Commissioner
Leh - Ladakh

[Signature]
DEPONENT
Deputy Commissioner
Leh - Ladakh

Verification



Verified at Leh on this 9th day of Jan, 2026 that the contents of the above reply by way of affidavit are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as maintained in the day-to-day affairs of the office of R-4. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.

[Signature]
Deputy Commissioner
Leh - Ladakh
DEPONENT

~~Certified that Shri Remil Singh Donk, IAS,
Deputy Commissioner
Leh, Ladakh
and witnessed by Stanziro Yagdot, LA, J&K, Leh
on 09th Jan, 2026
I examined the contents of the affidavits
of this affidavit & hence certified.~~

Tasadduq Hussain Abbot
Notary Public
Jammu Territory of Ladakh