

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

Original Application No. 641 of 2025

In the matter of:

M.P. Singh

Applicant

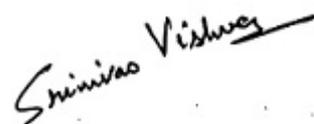
Vs.

State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.

Respondents

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1.	Response on behalf of Respondent No. 5 Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 22.12.2025 in O.A No. 641/2025.	
2.	Annexure R-5/I: A copy of letter dated 15.01.2026 issued by CPCB to Department of Forest Uttar Pradesh.	



(Filed by Adv. Srinivas Vishven)
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

Place: Delhi

Dated: 02.02.2026

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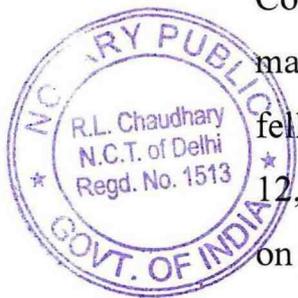
Respondents

Response on behalf of Respondent No. 5, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

1. That, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "NGT") vide order dated 22.12.2025 has sought the response of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") in the instant matter. Thereby, the response is made in the instant Original Application No. 641/2025 titled M.P. Singh Versus State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. (hereinafter referred to as "OA") in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, at the outset, the answering respondent denies all claims, contentions, allegations and averments against answering respondent CPCB in the referred OA contrary to anything stated or submitted in this reply. Nothing in the OA may be deemed to have been accepted or admitted by the answering Respondent for want of a specific denial or on the ground of non-traverse, save and except any averment which has been expressly admitted hereinafter.
3. That, CPCB is constituted under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

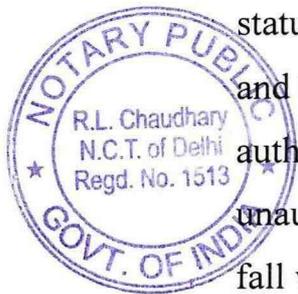


4. That, the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in every State/Union Territory have been constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and are responsible for implementation of the provisions of both the Acts in their respective State/Union Territory.
5. That, the present OA, arising out of the Applicant's letter petition, inter alia alleges that the officials of Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Sugar Mills undertook unauthorised felling of thirteen (13) trees without any permit, despite having been granted only a conditional approval limited to pruning of four (4) trees. It is further alleged that the felled timber was illegally transported in a private milk vehicle, in contravention of the Timber and Forest Produce Transport Rules, 1978. The Applicant also alleges collusion on the part of the concerned Forest Guard and Regional Forest Officer with officials of the Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Sugar Mills Federation, including by ignoring photographic material and falsifying records so as to reflect only four (4) instances of illegal felling instead of thirteen (13). Lastly, it is alleged that the fine of Rs. 12,000/- is grossly inadequate in law and is contrary to the Applicant's reliance on purported Supreme Court guidelines requiring stricter monetary penalties and compensatory plantation at the rate of ten (10) saplings for every tree felled.
6. That, with regard to the cutting and felling of trees, it is submitted that, in respect of forest areas, the protection, regulation and control of forests and forest produce, including the cutting and felling of trees, are governed by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. The powers under the said Act are exercised by the State Forest Department through its duly authorised officers. In respect of areas outside forests, the felling of trees is regulated by the U.P.



Protection of Trees Act, 1976, which prescribes the conditions, permissions and regulatory controls applicable to cutting/felling of trees outside notified forest limits. It is submitted that, in the State of Uttar Pradesh, the State Forest Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, is the competent authority for implementation and enforcement of the above statutory provisions, including grant or refusal of permissions, supervision and enforcement at site, initiation of proceedings in cases of violation, and taking such regulatory and consequential actions as provided under law. Accordingly, issues regarding permissions, compliance with any conditions, and alleged unauthorised felling of trees fall within the jurisdiction of the State Forest Department under the above laws.

7. That, upon receipt of notice in the present matter, the answering Respondent/CPCB, vide letter dated 15.01.2026, sought a status report from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in relation to the issues raised herein. A copy of the said letter is annexed and marked as **Annexure R-5/I**. It is submitted that the status report from the said authority is awaited.
8. That, it is humbly submitted that the answering Respondent/CPCB has no statutory mandate, authority or jurisdiction under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and U.P. Protection of Trees Act, 1976 and is therefore not the competent authority to deal with the allegations in the present OA. Issues such as alleged unauthorized felling of trees, conditional approvals, transportation of timber, fall within the jurisdiction of the State Forest Department / State Authorities.
9. The answering respondent No. 05 craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal for filing additional reply, if required, in future.



10. That in view of the above submissions, it is respectfully prayed that, the CPCB/Respondent No. 05 shall abide by all orders or directions passed by Hon'ble NGT in the instant matter.



(Sharandeep Singh)

Scientist 'E'

Central Pollution Control Board

02.02.2026



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Vs.

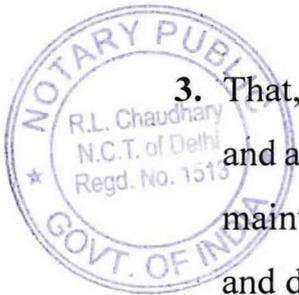
State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors.

Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Sharandeep Singh**, aged about 46 years in the capacity of **Scientist 'E'**, having office at the Delhi, CPCB, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and sincerely state on oath as follows: -

1. That, I, the deponent herein is well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the information derived from the official records, and hence, I am competent to verify, sign and swear this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent CPCB.
2. That, the accompanying reply may be read part and parcel of the present affidavit.
3. That, the accompanying reply has been drafted and filed under my instructions and authority the contents thereof are true and correct on the basis of the records maintained during ordinary course of business of CPCB and available records and documents and the contents of the same are read over and explained to me and are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



Sharandeep Singh

DEPONENT

शरणदीप सिंह / Shara.ndeep Singh
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(M/o Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

VERIFICATION

I, **Sharandeep Singh**, working as **Scientist 'E'** in CPCB, Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032, the Respondent No. 5 herein does hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

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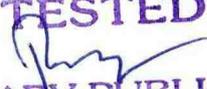
Verified at New Delhi on this the Day of February, 2026.



DEPONENT

शरणदीप सिंह / Sharandeep Singh
वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Mo Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032



ATTESTED

NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA

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केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार.
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA.

No.: CM-13011/2/2026-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO

January 15, 2026

11466

To,

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Government of Uttar Pradesh,
17, Rana Pratap Marg,
Lucknow - 226 001, Uttar Pradesh.

Subject: Hon'ble NGT Original Application No. 641/2025 M.P. Singh Versus State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. – reg.

Ref.: Hon'ble NGT (PB) order dated December 22.12.2025 in Original Application No. 641/2025.

Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to the above-cited order of the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) (copy enclosed).

2. The issues raised in the matter pertain to illegal felling and transportation of 13 trees at Uttar Pradesh Cooperative Sugar Mills Federation Ltd. 12 Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been impleaded as Respondent No. 5 in the matter and is required to file its response before the Hon'ble Tribunal. In this regard, it is requested that, the matter may kindly be examined at the appropriate level. Further, necessary action, as deemed fit, may please be taken, and the status of report may be intimated to this office at the earliest.

Encl.: As above

Yours faithfully,

(Sharandeep Singh)
Additional Director & Head-UPC-I

Copy to:

The Member Secretary,
Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board,
Building No. TC-12, Vibhuti Khand,
Gomti Nagar, Lucknow – 226010

: For kind information and necessary follow up please.

1093/UPC-I/26
16/01/2026

o/c

केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
निर्गत.....
दिनांक.....16/01/26.....

(Sharandeep Singh)

‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली – 110032.
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.

दूरभाष /Tel : 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट /Website: www.cpcb.nic.in