

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 73 OF 2026**

IN THE MATTER OF:

Jogha Singh & Ors.

... Applicant(s)

Versus

Government of NCT of Delhi & Ors.

... Respondent(s)

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**Filed by Adv. Vikrant Pachnanda
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

Place: Delhi

Dated:02.04.2026

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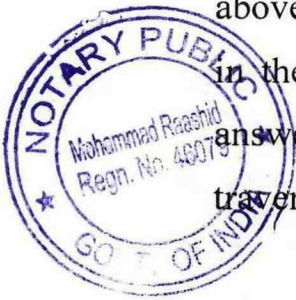
Government of NCT of Delhi & Ors.

... Respondent(s)

**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 07 i.e. CENTRAL
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

1. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal Principal Bench, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as "Hon'ble NGT") vide order dated 30.01.2026 in Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "OA") No. 73 of 2026, has sought the response of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB") in the instant matter. Thereby, the reply is made in this instant 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 above 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 any averment which has been expressly admitted hereinafter.

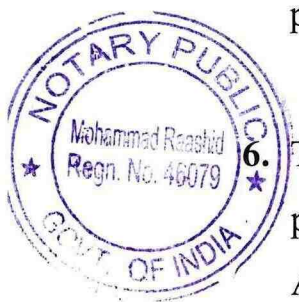


3. That, in the present OA, the applicants have alleged illegal felling of trees and attempted encroachment upon Gram Sabha land situated at Manchanda Farm bearing Khasra Nos. 101, 102, 103 and 60, located at Ambedkar Colony, Chhatarpur, New Delhi. The applicants have further alleged that

such felling of trees is in violation of the provisions of the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994. It has also been mentioned in the application that in response to a complaint made by the applicants, the Range Officer, South Forest Division has passed the restraintment order dated 30.10.2025 but even thereafter the illegal felling of trees has continued.

PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS:

4. That, it is humbly submitted that CPCB has been constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Water Act, 1974"). It performs the functions under the Water Act, 1974, The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred to as "Air Act, 1981") and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (hereinafter referred to as "E (P) Act, 1986").
5. That, the State Pollution Control Boards (hereinafter referred to "SPCBs")/Pollution Control Committees (hereinafter referred to "PCCs") in every State/Union Territory have been constituted under the Water Act, 1974 and the Air Act, 1981 and are responsible for implementation of the provisions of both the Acts in their respective State/Union Territory.



6. That, the cutting and felling of trees in forest land are governed by the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the rules made thereunder as applicable in concerned State/Union Territory. In the context of regulation and felling of trees in non-forest areas, the National Capital Territory of Delhi is governed by the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 and the Delhi Preservation of Trees Rules, 1996 made thereunder, under which permission for felling of trees

is granted by the Tree Officer, being a Forest Officer not below the rank of Deputy Conservator of Forests, appointed by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD).

7. That, CPCB is not the authority empowered to grant permission for felling of trees or to regulate activities within notified forest lands or in respect of trees located in non-forest areas.

PARA WISE REPLY:

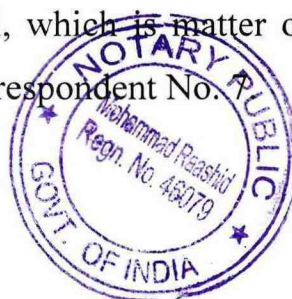
8. That, the averments made in paragraph no. 1 & 2 under the heading "MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH" are about introduction of the applicants, reasons for seeking intervention of Hon'ble Tribunal and introduction of Respondent. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 4, 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.

9. That, the averments made in paragraph Nos. 3 to 6 under the heading "MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH" are about the jurisdiction of Hon'ble NGT, cause of filing application and relief sought by the applicants. Hence, need no comments from this answering respondent No. 7.

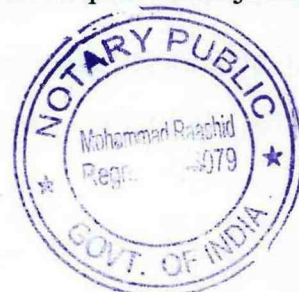
10. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 1 to 7 under the heading "BRIEF FACTS" are about alleged tree cutting on Gram Sabha land and environmental degradation due to alleged tree cutting, land use, development of green cover on that land and its importance and increase in land prices. The same is matter of record and needs no comment from this answering respondent No. 7.



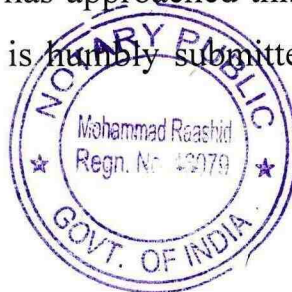
11. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 8 to 10 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about representations made by the local residents before Principal Conservator of Forest, Govt. of Delhi, District Magistrate (South Delhi), Deputy Commissioner of MCD and the Deputy Conservator of Forest regarding illegal tree cutting. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
12. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 11 and 12 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about violation of forest and environmental laws. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
13. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 13 and 14 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about restraint order issued by Deputy Conservator of Forest (South), alleged tree cutting despite this order and submission of complaint by residents to the District Magistrate and ADM (South). In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
14. That, the averments made in Paragraph No. 15 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about Notification dated 21.10.2021, appointing Deputy Conservators of Forest as Tree Officers under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 issued by Department of Environment, Forest and Wildlife, Govt. NCT of Delhi, which is matter of record and needs no comment from this answering respondent No.



15. That, the averments made in Paragraph No. 16 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about submission of representations by the applicants to various state authorities. In this context, submissions made at Paragraph No. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.
16. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 17 to 22 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about the provisions of the Delhi Preservation of Tree Act, 1994, violation of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Forest (Conservation) Act 1980. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 5, 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.
17. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 23 to 25 and Paragraph Nos. 30 to 33 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about Hon’ble Supreme Court matter titled *M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India (1987)* and various articles of the Constitution of India, which are matters of record and need no comments from this answering respondent No. 7.
18. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 26 to 29 under the heading “Brief Facts” are about the alleged violation of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, the references about Public Trust Doctrine and Principle of Sustainable Development. In these context, it is submitted that, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity. Further, it is humbly submitted that reply of the respective authorities may be helpful in adjudication of the instant matter by the Hon'ble NGT.



19. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 30 to 33 under the heading "Brief Facts" are about Articles of the Constitution and Hon'ble Supreme Court matter - *M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India (1987)*, which are matter of record and needs no comment from this answering respondent No. 7.
20. That, the averments made in Paragraph No. 34 to 36 under the heading "Brief Facts" are about the land under question, the reference to precautionary principle where tree cutting and encroachment pose real threats to air quality, ecological balance, public health and alleged existence of tree cover on the said land for several decades. In these context, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.
21. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 37 to 40 under the heading "Brief Facts" pertain to the Delhi Preservation of Tree Act, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and reference of various judgments rendered by the Apex Court, which are matters of record and need no comment from this answering respondent No.7.
22. That, the averments made in Paragraph Nos. 41 to 44 under the heading "Brief Facts" are about the benefits of tree cover, the impact of the loss of decades old vegetative cover, the alleged environmental harm due to tree cuttings. In these contexts, submissions made at Paragraph Nos. 6 and 7 of this reply are reiterated and not repeated for the sake of brevity.
23. That with respect to the averments made in Paragraphs Nos. 45 (A) to 45 (S) and 46 to 48 of the Original Application relates to the Grounds on the basis of which the Applicants has approached this Hon'ble Tribunal and under the PRAYER clause, it is humbly submitted that the submissions



made in preceding paragraphs are reiterated and are not repeated for the sake of brevity.

24. That, no comments are offered over the averments contained under the Heading "LIMITATION" clause and may be adjudicated by the Hon'ble Tribunal in the interest of justice.

25. That, it is most respectfully submitted that the Answering Respondent seeks liberty to file additional reply, if the same is required to be filed at later stage.

26. In light of the above submissions, it is most respectfully submitted that this answering respondent no.7 i.e. CPCB, shall abide by all the order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble NGT in the instant Original Application.

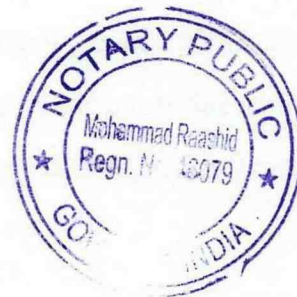


(Sharandeep Singh)

'Scientist E'

Central Pollution Control Board

02.04.2026



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... Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Sharandeep Singh**, aged about 46 years in the capacity of Scientist-E, having office at Delhi, Central Pollution Control Board, 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, 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

DEPONENT

शरणदीप सिंह / Shara,ndeeep 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

VERIFICATION

I, Sharandeep Singh, the deponent herein do hereby verify that the contents of the above paragraphs are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Verified at New Delhi on this the 02 Day of April, 2026.



DEPONENT

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

ATTESTED

 NOTARY PUBLIC
 DELHI (India)

02 APR 2026

