

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
Original Application No. 623/2025**

**IN THE SUO MOTU MATTER OF:**

News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle"  
appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025

**INDEX**

<b><u>S.NO</u></b>	<b><u>PARTICULARS</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE NO</u></b>
1.	REPLY ON BEHALF OF CHHATTISGARH ENVIORNMENT CONSERVATION BOARD/RESPONDENT NO. 7 ALONG WITH SUPPORTING AFFIDAVIT	1-5
2.	VAKALATNAMA ALONG WITH OIC ORDER	6-8

**FILED BY:**

*Abhinay*

**Mr. ABHINAY SHARMA**

(Advocate for Respondent No. 7)

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Filed on : 20.02.2026

Drawn on 17.02.2026

Place: New Delhi

**BEFORE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF CHHATTISGARH ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION BOARD/RESPONDENT NO. 7.**

1. At the outset, it is submitted that the present reply is being filed on behalf of the Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board (“**Respondent No. 7**”).
2. The present original application is registered *suo-motu* on the basis of the news item titled “*Govt’s efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle*” published in *The Deccan Herald* dated 23.11.2025. The said news item pertains to the alleged diversion of funds of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board for purposes not directly relatable to statutory environmental functions.
3. As per the news report, the State Government of Karnataka had reportedly sought funds from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for purposes such as railway barricading to mitigate man-elephant conflict, afforestation works, and implementation of coastal resilience projects.
4. The said OA was listed before this Hon’ble Tribunal on 03.12.2025, wherein this Hon’ble Tribunal, vide order dated 03.12.2025, observed that funds of Pollution Control Boards are statutorily earmarked and ought not to be diverted for purposes beyond those contemplated under the governing environmental statutes, including the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (“Air Act”) and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (“Water Act”).

5. This Hon'ble Tribunal further observed that the issue raised in the news report reflects a larger concern across the country and accordingly vide order dated 03.12.2025, impleaded Pollution Control Boards of various States, including the answering Respondent, and directed them to file their responses.
6. In compliance with the aforesaid order, the present reply is being filed by the answering Respondent.
7. It is respectfully submitted that **no diversion or utilisation of consent fees from revenue receipts for non-statutory purposes has been undertaken by the answering Respondent.** The said consent fees available with the answering Respondent are utilised strictly in accordance with the provisions of applicable environmental laws and regulatory mandates.
8. The answering Respondent has been diligently discharging its statutory duties and continues to utilise its consent fees solely for environmental protection and regulatory functions within the framework of applicable laws.
9. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that no adverse directions are warranted against the answering Respondent in the present matter.
10. The answering Respondent undertakes to abide by any further directions that may be passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
11. Hence, the present reply is being submitted for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Tribunal. This Hon'ble Tribunal may, therefore, take the present reply on record and pass any appropriate order(s) that it may deem fit, which will be complied with by the answering Respondent.

**FILED BY:***Abhinav***Mr. ABHINAV SHARMA**

(Advocate for Respondent No. 7)  
H-29, First Floor, Jangpura Extension,  
New Delhi – 110014  
Mob. No.: 9899272882  
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**AFFIDAVIT**

I, Priyanshi Singh D/o Mr Devendra Singh, aged about 33 years, Law Officer/ Authorized Representative of Respondent No. 7, having its head office at Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur do hereby solemnly affirm and state as hereunder:

1. That I am the authorised signatory of the Respondent No. 7 in the above captioned matter and I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case and am competent to affirm this affidavit on behalf of the Respondent No. 7.

2. That I have read and understood the contents of the Reply and say that the contents therein are true and correct based on my knowledge.

3. I say the contents of the Reply have been drafted under my instructions. The contents of the Rejoinder should be read as part and parcel of this Affidavit, and the same are not repeated herein for the sake of brevity.



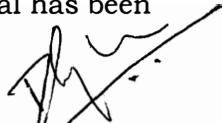
17 FEB 2026

17 FEB 2026

DEPONENT

**VERIFICATION**

Solemnly verified at Raipur on this 7 FEB 2026 day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2026 that the contents of my above-mentioned affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom

  
**DEPONENT**



**IDENTIFYING WITNESS:-**

1. Naresh Gritlahare
2. Chandra Sekhar .



**7 FEB 2026**

**SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED OR  
SWORN BEFORE ME BY  
THE WITHIN NAMED**

  
**GHANDRAKANT SHRMA  
NOTARY/ADVOCATE  
BHANPUR DISTT. RAIPUR.C.G.**

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News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB funds set to hit legal hurdle" appearing in The Deccan Herald dated 23.11.2025 State of Chhattisgarh & Ors.

**V A K A L A T N A M A**

KNOW ALL to whom these presents shall come that I/we, Priyanshi Singh -, Authorized Representative of Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, the Respondent No. 7 in the captioned matter. The above-named person do hereby appoint,

**Abhinay Sharma (D/2192/2011), Kirti Vyas (MP/3250/2021), Parul Khurana (D/5897/2022) and Deeksha Prakash (D/4182-A/2022), Sakshi Jain (MP/2221/2020), Sakshi Tripathi (D/13306/2025)** (Hereinafter called the Advocate) to be my/our Advocate in the above-noted case and authorize him:-

To act, appear, and plead in the above-noted case before this Tribunal and/or in any other Court in which the same may be tried or heard and also in the appellate Court including High Court to payment of fees separately for each court by me/us.

To sign, file verify and present pleadings, replications appeals cross-objections or petitions for executions, review, revision, restorations withdrawal compromise or other petitions, replies, objections or affidavits, or other documents as may be deemed necessary or proper for the prosecution of the said case in all its stages.

To file and take back documents.

To withdraw, or compromise the said case or submit to arbitration any differences or disputes that may arise touching or in any manner relating to the said case.

To take out execution proceedings. To take out execution proceedings.

To deposit, draw and receive moneys, cheque and grant receipt thereof and to do all other acts and things which may be necessary to be done for the progress and in the course of the prosecution of the case.

To appoint and instruct other Legal Practitioners authorizing him to exercise the power and authority hereby conferred upon the attorney on our behalf.

And I/We the undersigned do hereby agree to rectify and confirm acts done by the Advocate or his substitute in the matter as my/our own acts, as if done by me/us to all intents and purposes.

And I/We undertake that I/We or my/our duly authorized agent would appear in Court on all hearings and will inform the Advocate for appearance when the case is called.

And I/We undersigned do hereby agree not to hold the advocate or his substitute responsible for the result of the said case in consequence of his absence from the Court when the said case is called up for hearing, or any negligence of the said Advocate/s or his/their Substitute.

And I/We the undersigned do hereby agree that in the event of the whole or any part of the fee agreed by me/us to be paid to the Advocate remaining unpaid, he/they shall be entitled to withdraw from the prosecution of the said case until the same is paid up. If any costs are allowed for an adjournment, the Advocate would be entitled to the same. The fee settled Is only for the above case and Court.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I/We do hereunto set my/our hand to those presents the contents of which have been understood by me/us this .....17..... day of .....02..... 2026.

Accepted subject to the terms of fees.

Advocates

*Kirti Vyas*  
*Parul*  
*Abhinay*  
*Deeksha*  
*Sakshi*

*Priyanshi Singh*  
मुख्यालय  
उ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल  
पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19  
अटल नगर जिला - रायपुर (उ.ग.) 491001



**CHHATTISGARH ENVIRONMENT CONSERVATION BOARD**

ParyavasBhawan, North Block, Sector-19  
Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur (C.G.)  
Email - hocecb@gmail.com

No. 10979/Legal/CECB/2025

Atal Nagar Raipur, Date 05/01/2025

1. Priyanshi Singh,  
(Legal Officer),  
Office-In-Charge,  
Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation  
Board, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur.
2. Mr. Abhinay Sharma,  
Advocate,  
H-29, First Floor Jangpura Extension New  
Delhi 110014.

**Sub:-** **APPOINTMENT OF THE OIC AND CASE ALLOTMENT IN THE MATTER OF NEWS ITEM TITLED "GOVT'S EFFORTS TO TAP KSPCB FUND SET TO HIT LEGAL HURDLE" APPEARING IN THE DECCAN HERALD DATED 23.11.2025" (OA No. 623/2025)**

Priyanshi Singh, Legal Officer, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur is hereby appointed the Officer-In-Charge in the The Matter News Item titled "Govt's efforts to tap KSPCB fund set to hit legal hurdle" Appearing in The Deccan herald dated 23.11.2025 (OA No. 625/2025) before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi on behalf of Chairman, Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, Nawa Raipur, Atal Nagar (CG) (Respondent No.07).

The said case is allotted to Board's empaneled Advocate to Mr. Abhinay Sharma. The OIC is hereby directed to contact the Advocate as soon as possible via email: [abhinay@aslparkers.in](mailto:abhinay@aslparkers.in) or phone +919899272882 and ensure timely representation of the Board before the Court in the said matter.

The OIC and the Advocate appointed herein shall handle and deal with the matter in accordance with the Annexure I.

The OIC and the Advocate shall, from time to time, inform the Board of the updated status of the case via email at [hocecb@gmail.com](mailto:hocecb@gmail.com).

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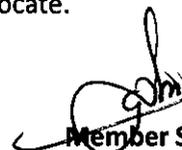
  
Member Secretary  
Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board  
Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur (CG)

**Officer-in Charge****Annexure I**

1. The OIC so appointed shall be responsible for the following:
  - a. The OIC shall contact the empaneled advocate as given in the appointment letter and give necessary instructions supported by all required documents.
  - b. The OIC shall assist the Advocate in preparation of the reply/ petitions/ complaints/ appeals/ applications by supplying such documents or briefs as required by the Advocate from time to time.
  - c. The OIC shall ensure timely submission of the reply/ petitions/ complaints/ appeals/ applications by the Advocate.
  - d. The OIC shall not conceal or withhold any relevant information or document required for representing the case on behalf of the Board.
  - e. The OIC should be aware of the updated status of the matter allotted to him/her and ensure compliance of the order/judgment of the Court as issued from time to time.
  - f. The OIC shall vet the reply/ petitions/ complaints/ appeals/ applications prepared by the Advocate and give comments (if any) before the same is filed before the Court.
  - g. The OIC appointed is authorized to sign/ approve documents and do any such action as required on behalf of the Board including but not limited to signing of Vakalatnama/ affidavit etc.

**Empaneled Advocate:**

2. The Advocate shall keep the OIC and the Board informed about the developments in the matters entrusted, on regular basis, using all digital modes of communication and shall intimate through call if the situation so demands including the date of hearing of the case.
3. The Advocate shall prepare and file reply/ petitions/ complaints/ appeals/ applications based on the instructions from and in consultation (oral or written) with the OIC of the matter and furnish a scanned copy of the same to the OIC and the Board within 5 days of filing of the same.
4. The Advocate shall obtain approval of the OIC on the final draft of reply/ petitions/ complaints/ appeals/ applications before filing the same before the Court.
5. When any case attended to by the Advocate is decided against the Board, he/she shall give his/her opinion regarding filing an appeal from such a decision not later than 5 working days of the order.
6. The Advocate shall furnish the copies of the Order or Judgment of the Court as is passed by the Court from time to time to the OIC and the Board with a brief note on any particular compliance/directions required to be done by the Board or any other relevant consideration within 5 days of the issuance of the order.
7. The Advocate shall not give any oral or written submission before the Court without consulting the concerned OIC in the matter.
8. No empanelled advocate shall appear in any matter against Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board. In case conflict of interest arises in any matter, the advocate shall inform the Board of the same as soon as the matter is allotted to him/her.
9. The Advocates will not delegate cases and shall himself / herself appear before the Court and deal with the same.
10. The Advocate shall maintain absolute secrecy and confidentiality of the cases of the Board.
11. An advocate including his junior/s shall not advise any party or accept any case against the Board in which he has appeared or is likely to be called upon to appear or advice.
12. If a case is dismissed by the Court or decided against the Board on account of non-appearance of the empanelled Advocate/ non-payment of court fee or non-submission of reply, then no fee shall be payable to the said Advocate.


**Member Secretary****Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board**

Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur (C.G.)