

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 751 of 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:****ABHISHT KUSUM GUPTA****...APPLICANT****VERSUS****STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & OTHERS****...RESPONDENTS****INDEX**

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THROUGH



**SUNIL J. MATHEWS /JYOTI CHIB**

[Advocates for the Applicant]

Chamber No. 114 & 128, Lawyer's Chamber,

R.K Jain Block, Supreme Court of India

Mobile: 9311567212,

Email: sjmathews@gmail.com

Place: New Delhi

Date: 08.09.2025

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 751 of 2024**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**ABHISHT KUSUM GUPTA**

**...APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

**STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & OTHERS**

**...RESPONDENTS**

**RESPONSE TO THE REPORT FILED BY THE UTTARAKHAND  
POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD (UKPCB) REGARDING WASTE  
MANAGEMENT IN KEDARNATH AS PER THE NGT ORDER DATED  
02.05.2025**

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

6. That the applicant has examined the report of the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) concerning the status of solid and liquid waste management in Kedarnath and would like to make some submissions challenging the findings of the report.
  
7. The report claims that the State Pollution Control Board has been able to manage the problems posed to the ecologically-sensitive zone from dumping of untreated sewage and plastic in the open. That claim is not backed by facts.
  
8. The state government and the UKPCB claim that they have been dealing with the problem whereas data shows that generation and dumping of both

organic and inorganic waste has gone up in recent years. A significant portion of it is not processed or recycled.

9. According to a Newslines dated 30.08.2025 (**Annexure 1**) and supporting data, over 17.6 tons of waste was generated at Kedarnath between May and July 2025.
10. Of this, only 7.1 tons were processed, leaving over 10 tons dumped untreated at a landfill near the base camp. (**Annexure 1**)
11. News dated 10.06.2025 shared by Sokka times, a local news channel, shows plastic bottles disposed in water stream which negate their claim of managing plastic and other inorganic waste. (**Annexure 2**)
12. There are serious faults in the solid-waste management mechanism, with improperly constructed waste and toilet pits as per a joint inspection report. Untreated sewage was found to have been discharged into the Mandakini and Saraswati rivers.
13. The 600 Kiloliters per Day (KLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) remains under construction, and its completion has been repeatedly delayed. The last date for completion was May 30, 2025. There is no statement on whether it has been completed as scheduled or not.
14. The existing STP load is not adequate to deal with the ever-rising number of pilgrims going to the state. The STP has been set up based on conservative estimates of the area having a permanent population of 5000 and a floating population of 20,000. That is a hugely conservative estimate.

We need empirical data to check if the STP will meet both existing and projected population, both temporary and permanent.

15. As per local reports the turnout of pilgrims by July 2025 was 14 lakh.
16. No environmental damage compensation or penalties have so far been imposed on local authorities, despite repeated violations of the Air and Water Act, The Environment Protection Act and a host of other laws.
17. UKPCB has issued show-cause notices to local bodies for open discharge of sewage. But no follow-up action has been taken. Such as imposing penalties or taking corrective action.
18. Sewage and human excreta is being discharged into the Mandakini thereby polluting Mandakini at Gaurikund. There is a strong stench in the air.  
**(Annexure 3)**
19. Household connectivity is still an issue. Work on connecting houses to the main sewage line is yet to be completed. Some parts are yet to be completed. The state government needs to say clearly if it will be able to meet the Dec 14, 2025, deadline, of completing the task.

**The applicant respectfully submits the following concerns and recommendations:**

- Immediate completion and adequate scaling of the STP and solid waste processing facilities, with clear household connectivity and operation timelines.

- Strict monitoring and enforcement by UKPCB and district authorities, including environmental compensation for non-compliance.
- Additional garbage recovery facilities and improvement in collection/segregation at source in high-altitude environments.
- Ensuring enhanced awareness and compliance among pilgrims and all stakeholders to reduce the waste burden on the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

The applicant prays for urgent directions from this Hon'ble Tribunal to ensure environmental safeguards, timely infrastructure upgrades, and accountability of concerned authorities for sustainable waste management in Kedarnath. The consequences of letting such things slide is more than painfully visible during the recent rains.

**THROUGH**



**SUNIL J. MATHEWS /JYOTI CHIB**

[Advocates for the Applicant]

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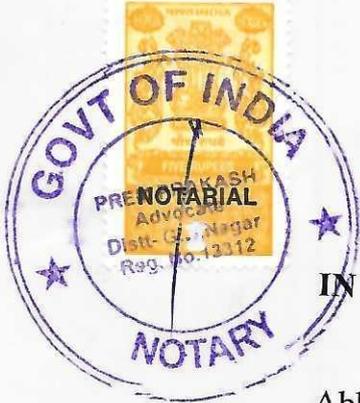
Place: New Delhi

Date: 08.09.2025

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BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 751 / 2025



IN THE MATTER OF:

Abhisht Kusum Gupta & Anr.

...Applicant

VERSUS

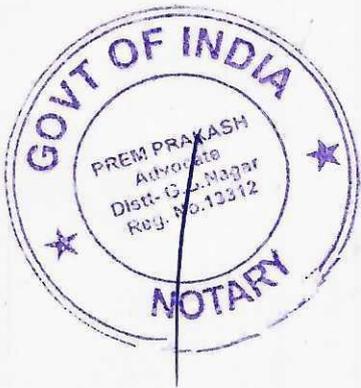
State of Uttarakhand & Ors.

...Respondents

AFFIDAVIT

I, Abhisht Kusum Gupta, aged around 44 years, son of Late Sh. Prabhat Kusum Gupta, E-001, Paramount Floraville, Sector 137, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar – 201304, presently at New Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that:

1. I am the Applicant in the accompanying Original Application, and being fully conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case, I am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. The contents of the accompanying Original Application have been drafted by my counsel under my instructions and the contents of the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



*Abhisht*  
DEPONENT

**Attested**

**PREM PRAKASH**  
Notary Public  
(G B Nagar)

*[Signature]*

06 SEP 2025

*[Signature]*

## VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ of 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of it is false and that nothing material has been concealed therefrom.



## ANNEXURE 1

Copy of the video report by *News9 Live* titled “*LIVE: Kedarnath Chokes On Waste | Pilgrimage Boom Puts Himalayas At Risk | News9*” dated **August 31, 2025**, available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vReykYOAcIE>

This video serves as documented evidence highlighting the magnitude of the waste management crisis in Kedarnath during the 2025 yatra season, showing official figures on waste accumulation, untreated waste dumping, ecological impact, and calls for urgent action.

**ANNEXURE 2**

News shared by Sokka times dated 30.06.2025 below shows how a huge pile of plastic waste is disposed of in a waterfall/stream.

<https://youtu.be/jg693TjluGs?si=vZnMSaOGapczPmdT>

**ANNEXURE 3**

Copy of the video shared by an amateur videographer dated 19.06.2025 regarding pollution and discharge of human excreta into the Mandakini river.

[https://youtu.be/1T1x3Om17WQ?si=SlzlgJ\\_ng-jifRs-](https://youtu.be/1T1x3Om17WQ?si=SlzlgJ_ng-jifRs-)

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sunil mathews &lt;sjmathews@gmail.com&gt;

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**Submission of Response to the report filed by the UKPCB**

1 message

**Sunil J. Mathews** <sjmathews@gmail.com>

8 September 2025 at 12:28

To: ngtpb.cpcb@gov.in

Cc: atripathi.cpcb@gov.in, kamalbandhu.cpcb@gov.in, sunilksharma.cpcb@gov.in, kanika.cpcb@supportgov.in, srinivas@svlawchambers.in, msukpcb@yahoo.com, dm-rud-ua@nic.in, cs-uttaranchal@nic.in, mscb.cpcb@nic.in, ccb.cpcb@nic.in, admn.nmcg@nic.in

Please find the enclosed copy of response to the report filed by the UKPCB as an advance service in the matter of OA-751/2024 listed on 09-09-2025.

--  
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**Response NGT.pdf**

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