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

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 911 OF 2022

(I.A No. 16/2023, I.A No. 9/2024)

IN THE MATTER:

NGT Bar Association (substituted for original

applicants Prof. Dr. Sangeev Bagai & Ors.)

... Applicant

Versus

Department of Environment GNCTD & Ors.

... Respondents

WITH

Original Application No. 168/2024

Kapil Dev & Ors.

... Applicants

Versus

State of Punjab through The Chief Secretary & Ors,

... Respondents

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Filed By:

Vikrant Pachnanda / Mukul Katyal
Advocates for Central Pollution Control Board
C – 485, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi – 110 024
M: +91 – 98711 38313
E: vikrant.pachnanda@gmail.com

Place: New Delhi

Date: 27.05.2025

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
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RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF THE CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(CPCB)

1. That, in the matter of Hon'ble NGT Original Application No. 911/2022 (I.A No. 16/2023, I.A No. 9/2024) titled NGT Bar Association (substituted for original applicants Prof. Dr. Sanjeev Bagai & Ors.) Versus Department of Environment GNCTD & Ors. WITH Original Application No. 168/2024 titled Kapil Dev & Ors. Versus State of Punjab through the Chief Secretary & Ors., directions issued by Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 26.03.2025 related to CPCB are as follows:

"3. *In view of the recommendations made in the report we consider it appropriate to seek response of MoEF&CC, CPCB and other respondents.*



4. Responses by MoEF&CC, CPCB and other respondents may be filed within eight weeks.”

In compliance with the above-mentioned directions passed by the Hon’ble Tribunal, the Answering Respondent is filing the present Response.

2. That, CPCB is constituted under section 3 of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs 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.

3. This Hon’ble Tribunal vide its order dated 05.04.2024, directed for formation of a Joint Committee chaired by the Director General of Forests & Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India with following ‘Terms of reference’:

(i) Formulation of policy, enactment of statutory frame work and laying down of guidelines for the growth, protection/preservation, pruning and management of trees in non-forest areas in States/UTs not having the same.

(ii) Preparation of SOP/Guidelines for the cutting/felling of the trees in Rural Area, cutting/felling and pruning of trees in Urban Areas.

(iii) Preparation of SOP/Guidelines for the Transplantation /Translocation of Trees.

(iv) In addition to the above any other relevant aspect which the Committee considers necessary to address the issues.”

4. That in compliance with the said order, the Joint Committee prepared and filed a report comprising of (a) status of trees outside forest in India, (b) existing legal framework, (c) management roles, (d) additional interventions i.e., advisories



and Draft Tree management guidelines as per terms of reference and (e) recommendations therein.

5. That, aforesaid report of the Joint committee recommends that States and Union Territories (UTs) not having a legal framework at present for the management of trees should take up the process of establishing the same and States/UTs having the existing legal framework may align with the broader objectives of national forest conservation efforts by integrating the applicable and relevant parts of the advisories mentioned in the Joint Committee report as per the local requirements. It also suggests composition of the tree authority, strengthening of enforcement mechanisms, adequately staffed departments, effective management of trees in non-forest areas, etc.

It also recommends that Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) can extend assistance to States and Union Territories w.r.t guidance on Policy and Legal Frameworks, Capacity Building and Training, Technical and Scientific Support, Financial assistance and Monitoring and Coordination.

These recommendations are provided under the heading "Recommendations" of the duly signed Joint committee report submitted by this Respondent on 21.05.2025 to Hon'ble Tribunal.

6. That, in light of the above submissions, CPCB shall abide by all the order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the present Original Application.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharandeep".

(Sharandeep Singh)
Scientist 'E'

Central Pollution Control Board

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AFFIDAVIT

I, Sharandeep Singh, Scientist 'E', having office at the 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 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.



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

VERIFICATION

Verified at Delhi on this day of 27 MAY 2025 2025 that the contents of the above reply are correct and true on the basis of the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or mis-stated.



ATTESTED



**NOTARY
 DELHI (INDIA);**

27 MAY 2025



DEPONENT

शरणदीप सिंह / Sharandeep Singh
 वैज्ञानिक 'ई' / Scientist 'E'
 केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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