

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

OA NO. 263 OF 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:-

Karan Singh

...Applicant

Versus

Ministry of Environment Forest and

Climate Change & others

...Respondents

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PLACE: New Delhi

DATE: 29.10.2025

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

Original Application No. 263 of 2025

(I.A. No. 466/2025)

KARAN SINGH S/O GIAN SINGH AGED ABOUT 70 YEARS RESIDENT OF
VILLAGE SHEKUPUR MANZIRI TENSIL AND DISTRICT PATHANKOT PUNJAB-
145026.

..... Applicant

Versus

1. UNION OF INDIA THROUGH THE SECRETARY MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE INDIRA PARYAVARAN
BHAWAN JOR BAGH ROAD NEW DELHI-110 003.
2. STATE OF PUNJAB THROUGH SECRETARY (MINES & GEOLOGY)
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, PUNJAB GOVERNMENT OF
PUNJAB SECTOR 18 CHANDIGARH-160018
3. DEPARTMENT OF MINING AND GEOLOGY THROUGH DIRECTOR STATE OF
PUNJAB UDHYOG BHAWAN, SECTOR 17 CHANDIGARH-160017.

4. PUNJAB POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD THROUGH CHAIRMAN
VATAVARAN BHAWAN, NABHA ROAD PATIALA-PUNJAB-147201
5. DEPARTMENT OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION THROUGH
DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, WILDLIFE, PATHANKOT FOREST COMPLEX
SECTOR 68 SAS NAGAR, PUNJAB
6. THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER PATHANKOT DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
OFFICE, MALIKPUR, PATHANKOT, PUNJAB-145001
7. THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDANT OF POLICE PATHANKOT DAC MALIKPUR,
PATHANKOT, PUNJAB-145025.

.....Respondents

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	29.07.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal.		
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Place : Pathankot .

Dated : 29-10-2025

Palavi
Palavi, IAS,

Deputy Commissioner,

Pathankot

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

Original Application No. 263 of 2025

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Karan Singh

..... Applicant

Versus

Ministry of Environment,

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*Reply/ Response by way of an affidavit of Palavi,
IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot on behalf
of respondent 6 i.e. Deputy Commissioner
Pathankot, in compliance of the order dated
29.07.2025 passed by the Hon'ble National Green
Tribunal.*



I, the above named deponent do hereby solemnly affirm and declare on oath as under:-

1. That it is respectfully submitted that the present petition is pending adjudication before this Hon'ble Tribunal and is now fixed for **30.10.2025**.
2. That it is respectfully submitted that on 29.07.2025, this Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to pass the order dated 29.07.2025 vide which the Hon'ble Tribunal had **directed to file Reply/ Response on or before the next date of hearing**.
3. That after passing of the order dated 29.07.2025 by this Hon'ble Court, the deponent got the knowledge of the same and further directed the Station House Officer, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, Pathankot and Mining Inspector, Sub Division Malikpur, District Pathankot to submit their respective reports/ reply, so that the present affidavit can be filed.
4. Thereafter, the Station House Officer, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, Pathankot and Mining Inspector, Sub Division Malikpur, District Pathankot, submitted their respective reports/ replies and thus, the present affidavit is being filed on the perusal of the complete record as well as the report of Station House Officer, Police Station Narot Jaimal



Singh Pathankot, District Pathankot AND Mining Inspector, Sub Division Malikpur, District Pathankot.

5. That on the perusal of the reports of the Station House Officer, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh Pathankot AND Mining Inspector, Sub Division Malikpur, District Pathankot as well as the record, the following points have come on record, which are mentioned here in below for the kind perusal of this Hon'ble Court :-

PRELIMINARY OBJECTIONS :-

- i. At the very outset, it is respectfully submitted that the present petition is not maintainable in the present form as the applicant has suppressed material facts and has attempted to project his private property dispute as a case of large-scale illegal mining. The applicant Karan Singh and his son Varinder Singh have already filed several complaints bearing Nos. 162-DC dated 16.06.2025, 1810-PGD dated 23.06.2025, 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025, 2024-PGD dated 14.07.2025, and 215-DC dated 14.07.2025 before the Police, against Sukhraj Singh S/o Tarsem Singh R/o Village Sultan Vind, District Amritsar and Harjit Singh S/o Pritam Singh R/o Model Town, Pathankot and others regarding land/property situated in the revenue estate of Village Chak Kushaliya, Police



Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot. All such complaints have been duly inquired into by the police authorities and appropriate action has already been taken as per law.

ii. It is pertinent to mention that the applicant Karan Singh raised allegations of illegal mining only in his Complaint No. 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025, whereas all his other complaints pertain exclusively to a property dispute and have no connection whatsoever with illegal mining. This fact clearly establishes that the applicant is attempting to give a colour of environmental litigation to what is essentially a personal property dispute. By clubbing his land dispute with allegations of illegal mining, the applicant is deliberately trying to mislead this Hon'ble Tribunal and invoke its jurisdiction on misconceived grounds. Such conduct amounts to abuse of process of law and the present petition deserves to be dismissed on this ground alone.

iii. With respect to Complaint No. 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025 (regarding illegal mining) filed by the applicant before Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, it is submitted that the matter was enquired into by the concerned Police Station. Both the applicant and the opposite party were summoned, their statements were



recorded, and it was revealed that the dispute essentially pertains to possession over certain Central Government land situated in the abandoned village Chak Kushaliya, near Ravi River, District Pathankot. The complainant Karan Singh claims ownership over 67 kanals of land in Village Chak Akhwara, whereas the opposite party Sukhraj Singh claims cultivation rights over 72 kanals of adjoining Central Government land. Since both parties were staking rival claims, and to prevent breach of peace, a Kalandra under Report No. 22 dated 20.07.2025 under Section 126/170 BNSS was prepared by the police against both sides and submitted to the learned SDM, Pathankot, for binding down proceedings. The Enquiry Report dated 24.07.2025 submitted by the Police station Narot Jaimal Singh is reproduced as under :-

*“Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh
District Pathankot. In Reference to Complaint No.
1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025*

Respected Sir,

With reference to the above-mentioned complaint, it is submitted that the complainant Karan Singh son of Gian Singh, resident of Shekhupur Manjiri, Police Station



Narot Jaimal Singh, has filed a complaint against unknown persons alleging illegal mining from the Shamlat (common) land of village Chak Kushalia.

On receiving the complaint, the undersigned ASI summoned both parties, namely the complainant and Sukhraj Singh son of Tarsem Singh, resident of Amritsar, to the police station and initiated inquiry.

*During the inquiry, it came to light that village Chak Kushaliya, within the jurisdiction of Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, is an **abandoned village (Becharag)**. In this abandoned village, a considerable portion of land belongs to the Central Government. The land of village Chak Akhwara adjoins this Central Government land.*

The complainant Karan Singh claims ownership of 67 kanals of land in village Chak Akhwara, while the opposite party Sukhraj Singh claims cultivation rights over 72 kanals of Central Government land. Both parties assert possession over the Central Government land.



The complainant also produced a copy of demarcation allegedly carried out by the Revenue Department. However, the Patwari of the area has clearly recorded that since village Chak Kushalya has not been formally partitioned (chakbandi), proper demarcation cannot be carried out. Thus, both sides are staking claims over the said land.

Due to this, there is every possibility of a fight or dispute arising between them in future. Hence, preventive action was considered necessary to avert any untoward incident. Accordingly, the undersigned ASI has prepared a **Kalandra** under **Report No. 22** dated **20.07.2025**, for offence under **Section 126/170 BNSS**, against both parties and submitted it before the Hon'ble Court of SDM, Pathankot, for appropriate orders to bind down the parties.

It is further clarified that the allegation of illegal mining raised by the complainant against the opposite party Sukhraj Singh has not been substantiated. The complainant appears to have projected his land dispute



as an issue of illegal mining. Nevertheless, preventive action has been taken against both parties.

Therefore, no further action is required on this complaint. It is recommended that the complaint be filed in the office record. Copy of Kalandra and report is enclosed for ready reference.

Report is respectfully submitted.

Sd/-

ASI, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh

Dated: 24.07.2025”.

iv. The allegation of illegal mining made in Complaint No. 1895-PGD was found to be unsubstantiated during inquiry. It was observed that the complainant attempted to portray a personal land dispute as an issue of illegal mining. Nonetheless, preventive action was duly taken by the police against both parties, thereby showing that the matter was not ignored.

v. It is further submitted that the Ravi River-Bed area comes under the jurisdiction of Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District



Pathankot. Thus, the Mining Department Pathankot in association with the Local Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, have been taking continuous, strict, and effective action against illegal mining activities. As evidence of the same, several FIRs have been registered during the years 2024–2025 under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and relevant sections of IPC/BNS, the details of which is given as under:-

Sr No	Details of FIR
1.	FIR No. 0010 dated 14.02.2024, under sections 4(1), 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
2.	FIR No. 0029 dated 29.05.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957 and section 379 of IPC, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
3.	FIR No. 0030 dated 30.05.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act



	1957 and section 379 of IPC, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
4.	FIR No. 0034 dated 23.06.2024, under sections 4(1)(A), 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957 and section 379 of IPC, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
5.	FIR No. 0039 dated 08.07.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957 and section 303(2) of BNS 2023, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
6.	FIR No. 0044 dated 03.09.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957 and section 303(2) of BNS 2023, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot
7.	FIR No. 0045 dated 04.09.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot
8.	FIR No. 0046 dated 06.09.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act



	1957, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
9.	FIR No. 0047 dated 09.09.2024, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
10.	FIR No. 0001 dated 04.01.2025, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957 and section 303(2) of BNS 2023, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
11.	FIR No. 0036 dated 05.06.2025, under sections 21(1), 4(1)(A) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.
12.	FIR No. 0058 dated 02.08.2025, under sections 21(1) of Mines and Mineral (Regulation of Development) Act 1957, Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh, District Pathankot.

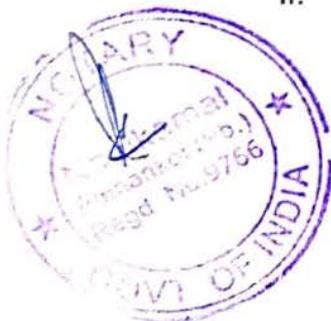


In all these cases, the accused persons and stone crusher owners indulging in illegal mining were arrested, and their vehicles/machinery used in mining were seized. This demonstrates that the State authorities are not only vigilant but are also actively curbing the menace of illegal mining.

- vi. It is, therefore, incorrect and misleading for the applicant to allege that no action has been taken by the State machinery or by the answering respondents. The complaints of the applicant have been duly inquired into, preventive proceedings have been initiated, and parallelly, independent FIRs have been registered against other violators, thereby showing bona fide and lawful action by the police.

PARA WISE REPLY :-

- i. That the contents of para no. 1 of the petition, regarding the description of the applicant and his addresses, are a matter of record and need no specific reply.
- ii. That the contents of para no. 2 of the petition, regarding the description of the respondents and their addresses, are a matter of record and need no specific reply.



- iii. That the contents of para no. 3 of the petition, alleging rampant illegal sand mining in and around the villages mentioned therein, are wrong, misconceived, and hence denied. It is submitted that the applicant has tried to exaggerate and generalize his private dispute into a large-scale environmental issue. In fact, the only allegation of illegal mining was raised by him in Complaint No. 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025, which was duly enquired into by the police. During inquiry, it was found that the dispute essentially pertains to rival claims over land in the abandoned village Chak Kushaliya, and no instance of illegal mining was established against the opposite party. However, to maintain law and order, a Kalandra under Section 126/170 BNSS was prepared against both sides and submitted before the learned SDM, Pathankot. It is further submitted that the Mining Department Pathankot in association with the police of District Pathankot have been taking strict action against illegal mining by registering multiple FIRs (**as detailed above in the Preliminary Objections**), arresting offenders, and impounding vehicles used in mining, which shows that there is no inaction on the part of the answering respondents.



- iv. That the contents of para no. 4 of the petition, alleging that mining operations are being carried out without mandatory Environmental Clearance and in violation of conditions, resulting in loss of fertile agricultural land, degradation of soil, health hazards, and damage to crops, are wrong and denied. The applicant has not produced any cogent evidence, scientific report, or official record to substantiate such sweeping allegations. It is reiterated that the applicant raised allegations of illegal mining only in Complaint No. 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025, which was duly enquired into by the police and found to be unsubstantiated. All other complaints filed by the applicant pertain solely to his private property dispute. On the contrary, the Mining Department Pathankot in association with the local Police, have been taking strict and continuous action against illegal mining in the district by registering multiple FIRs, arresting offenders, and impounding vehicles used in illegal mining. Therefore, the allegations of environmental degradation, crop loss, and health hazard as attributed to the answering respondents are wholly misconceived, exaggerated, and denied.



v. That the contents of para no. 5 of the petition are wrong, misconceived, and hence denied. It is specifically denied that any unlawful activities are disrupting the ecological balance or that there exists any substantial question relating to the environment attributable to the answering respondents. The allegations made are general, vague, and unsupported by any credible material. As already stated, the applicant has only once alleged illegal mining in Complaint No. 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025, which upon inquiry was found unsubstantiated, and preventive action under Section 126/170 BNSS was nonetheless initiated against both parties. It is submitted that the Mining Department in association with the Local police have been regularly taking strict action against illegal mining by registering multiple FIRs, arresting offenders, and seizing vehicles. Therefore, the attempt of the applicant to convert his personal property dispute into an environmental litigation before this Hon'ble Tribunal is mala fide and an abuse of process.

vi. That the contents of para no. 6 comprising sub-paras (a) to (t) are wrong, misconceived, and hence denied, except to the extent of matters of record. The applicant has made sweeping and

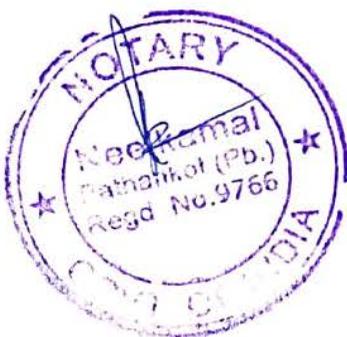


exaggerated allegations of rampant illegal mining, environmental degradation, and administrative inaction without producing any cogent evidence or official record. The answering respondents respectfully submit as under:

- i. Para No. 6(a-c). It is denied that the applicant has witnessed any decline in agricultural productivity attributable to alleged mining. The only complaint where illegal mining was alleged is Complaint No. 1895-PGD dated 01.07.2025, which was duly enquired into by the police and found unsubstantiated. The dispute essentially pertains to rival claims over Central Government land in abandoned village Chak Kushaliya, and preventive proceedings under Section 126/170 BNSS were initiated against both parties.
- ii. Para no. 6(d) - The allegation that 3,019 kanals of "Gair Mumkin Janglat" land has been illegally mined is denied. No such finding has been recorded by the police or by any competent authority.
- iii. Para No. 6(e) - Reliance on case law of the Hon'ble Apex Court is not disputed, but the same has no application to



- the facts of this case as no mining has been found within prohibited zones in the inquiry conducted.
- iv. Para No. (f-h). The allegations regarding 845 kanals of BSF-manned border land being illegally occupied or mined are vague and unsubstantiated. No complaint from BSF authorities has been received by the answering respondents in this regard. The jurisdiction over Central Government/BSF land does not vest with the answering respondents in respect of ownership or possession.
- v. Para No. 6 (i-j). The allegations of forged girdwari entries, damage to high tension lines, transformers, and large-scale tree felling are specifically denied for want of proof.
- vi. Para No. 6(k-m). It is denied that crushers are operating illegally on agricultural land or that excavation of 40-50 feet has been permitted. Whenever any instance of illegal mining or unlicensed crushing unit has come to notice, FIRs have been registered, vehicles impounded, and offenders arrested. In 2024-2025 alone, multiple



FIRs were lodged in Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, IPC/BNS provisions, which clearly establishes that the answering respondents are vigilant and proactive.

- vii. Para No. 6 (n-p). Allegations regarding formation of artificial ponds, large-scale pollution, health hazards, and violation of Article 21 are denied. No scientific report or credible evidence has been placed on record by the applicant to support these claims.
- viii. Para No. 6(q-s). It is denied that the applicant's allegations raise any "substantial question relating to the environment" under Section 14 of the NGT Act, 2010. The dispute is essentially a private land dispute dressed up as environmental litigation.
- ix. Para No. 6(t). It is specifically denied that the answering respondents have failed to take adequate measures. On the contrary, the police on the complaints made by the Mining Department, have been registering FIRs, taking preventive action, and ensuring strict enforcement of



law against illegal mining. The allegation of administrative inaction is thus false and baseless.

Accordingly, the allegations made in para no. 6 (a-t) are wholly misconceived, exaggerated, and denied.

vii. That the contents of para no. 7 (a-l) are wrong, misconceived, and hence denied except to the extent of matters of record. The applicant has made sweeping and unsubstantiated allegations without producing any credible documentary evidence. The answering respondents submit as under:

i. Para No. 7(a) - It is denied that sand mining or stone crusher operations in the jurisdiction of District Pathankot are being carried out without Environmental Clearance or in violation of the EIA Notification and the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. On the contrary, whenever illegal mining has been detected, strict action has been taken by registering FIRs, arresting offenders, and seizing vehicles.

ii. Para No. 7(b-c). It is specifically denied that there has been indiscriminate excavation of 40-50 feet, removal of fertile topsoil, or formation of artificial ponds as



alleged. The applicant has not provided any scientific report or survey supports in support of his these assertions. Allegations of health hazards and violation of Article 21 are false and unsubstantiated.

- iii. Para No. 7(d-e). The allegations regarding illegal mining within 5 km of the Line of Control, occupation of 845 kanals of BSF land, and forged revenue entries are vague and beyond the jurisdiction of the answering respondents. No requisition or complaint has been received from BSF authorities in this regard. The applicant has not produced any official record to substantiate these claims.
- iv. Para No. 7(f). It is denied for want of proof that illegal mining has taken place in "Gair Mumkin Janglat". No such complaint was ever made by the applicant during police inquiries.
- v. Para No. 7(g). It is denied for want of proof that high-voltage lines, transformers, or large-scale green cover have been damaged by mining activities. No such



incident has been reported to or confirmed by the answering respondents.

- vi. Para No. 7(h-i). It is denied for want of proof that crushers are illegally operating on agricultural land or that excavation is taking place up to 40-50 feet. These claims are exaggerated and contrary to factual position.
- vii. Para No. 7(j). The allegation that artificial ponds have been created by illegal mining, resulting in groundwater depletion and water scarcity, is denied for want of proof.
- viii. Para No. 7(k). It is specifically denied that the issues raised constitute a "substantial question relating to the environment" within the meaning of Section 14 of the NGT Act, 2010. The present petition is an attempt to convert a private land dispute into environmental litigation.
- ix. Para No. 7(l). It is denied that the answering respondents have failed in their statutory duties. Multiple FIRs (as detailed above) under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and IPC/BNS provisions were registered during 2024-2025,



vehicles were seized, and accused arrested, which demonstrates proactive action by the police. Hence, the allegation of systemic failure is wholly incorrect.

Accordingly, the allegations contained in para no. 7 (a-I) are misconceived, unsubstantiated, and denied.

- viii. That the contents of para no. 8 of the petition are wrong and denied. It is specifically denied that there are ongoing illegal sand mining activities in and around Village Shekupur Manziri or the adjoining villages as alleged. The applicant has not placed on record any survey, inspection report, or credible evidence to substantiate the sweeping averment of daily violations. On the contrary, the Mining Department in association of Local Police, have been taking strict and continuous action against illegal mining in the jurisdiction of Police Station Narot Jaimal Singh and District Pathankot, as evident from the registration of multiple FIRs during 2024–2025, arrest of offenders, and seizure of vehicles involved in illegal mining. Therefore, the allegation that the situation constitutes a continuing violation under Schedule I of the NGT Act, 2010 is misconceived, unfounded, and denied. The applicant is attempting to convert his private property



dispute into an environmental litigation. Hence the present application/petition is liable to be dismissed being misconceived, frivolous, and an abuse of process of law.

6. That it is submitted that the deponent has a great respect for this Hon'ble Court/ Tribunal and the order dated 29.07.2025 passed by this Hon'ble Court/ Tribunal has been duly complied with. The deponent is duty bound and always ready and willing to obey the order passed by this Hon'ble Court/ Tribunal.

In view of above, it is submitted that the present affidavit may kindly be taken on record in the interest of justice.

Place : Pathankot .

Palavi
(Deponent)

Dated : 29-10-2025

Palavi, IAS,

Deputy Commissioner,

Pathankot

Verification:



Verified that contents of Para No. 1 to 6 of the REPLY/ RESPONSE are true and correct to my knowledge and as per information derived from

official record. Nothing has been kept concealed therein and no part of it is false.

Place : Pathankot .

Palavi
(Deponent)

Dated : 29-10-2025

Palavi, IAS,
Deputy Commissioner,
Pathankot



5930

Certified that above said Affidavit was declared on solemn affirmation before me on this day dt. 29/10/2025 by Sh. Palavi IAS S/o Deputy Commissioner R/o. Pathankot Identified by self

Neelkamal
Notary
Pathankot (Pb.)

29/10/2025

233

Naimishi Verma <naimishi.verma@amaltaslaw.in>

NGT_Karan Singh v. UOI & Ors._OA 263 of 2025

1 message

Naimishi Verma <naimishi.verma@amaltaslaw.in>

Wed, Oct 29, 2025 at 2:21 PM

To: Vivek Thakur <vkthakur1979@gmail.com>

Cc: Satakshi Sood <satakshi@amaltaslaw.in>

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the reply which is being filed on behalf of the Respondent No. 6 in the captioned matter.

Thanks & Regards,

Naimishi Verma

Advocate

 **Reply_R6_OA 263 of 2025.pdf**

23265K

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

Original Application No.263 of 2025
(I.A. No. 466/2025)

Karan Singh

.....Applicant

Versus

Ministry of Environment,

Forest and Climate Change & Others

.....Respondents

AUTHORITY LETTER

I, Palavi, IAS, Collector-cum- Deputy Commissioner, Pathankot is hereby authorize Sh.Preet Simar Sandhu, Executive Engineer, Drainage-cum-Mining and Geology Division, Pathankot (Punjab) to defend and file the reply in the subject cited case and attend the same on subsequent dates on behalf of Respondent No.6.

Palavi
Collector -cum- Deputy Commissioner,
Pathankot.