

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 06 OF 2025**

News Item titled "Mining Mafia brings down another Aravali hill" appearing in 'The Tribune' dated 21.12.2024.

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Filed by



**Adv. Soni Singh**

On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

**Dated: 01.05.2025**

**Place: Delhi**

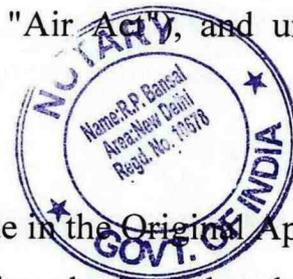
BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 06 OF 2025

News Item titled "Mining Mafia brings down another Aravali hill" appearing in 'The Tribune' dated 21.12.2024.

REPLY ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 3, i.e. CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD.

**MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:**

1. That, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (hereinafter to be referred as "**Hon'ble NGT**") vide its Order dated 22.01.2025 has impleaded Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter to be referred as "**CPCB**") as Respondent No. 03 including other respondents and directed to file reply/response, thereby the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, CPCB is constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974 (hereinafter referred to as "Water Act"). It performs its functions under the Water Act, 1974 and The Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1981 (hereinafter referred to as "Air Act"), and under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. That, at the outset, in respect of the averments made in the Original Application (hereinafter referred to as "O.A."), it is respectfully submitted that the Central Pollution Control Board ("**CPCB**") has requested the concerned State Pollution Control Boards ("**SPCBs**") to provide factual status and action taken report on



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the issues raised in the O.A. In the meantime, the present short reply is being submitted.

#### **PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS**

4. That it is humbly submitted that, State Department of Mines and Geology is the Nodal Authority in the State for dealing with the allotment of mining leases under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (hereinafter referred as MMDR Act), 1957 and is entrusted with the enforcement and regulation of mining operations in a State including illegal mining. Under Section 23(c) of the MMDR Act 1957, the State Governments are empowered to make rules for grant of prospecting licenses or mining leases in respect of minor mineral and making rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals and therefore can make necessary policy and implement necessary enforcement measures.
  
5. That it is humbly submitted that as per the Environmental Impact Assessment notification-2006 (hereinafter referred to as "EIA"), Category 'A' projects including expansion and modernization of existing project shall require Environmental Clearance (hereinafter referred to as "EC") from MoEF&CC on the recommendations of Expert appraisal committees ("EAC") and Category 'B' projects require EC from the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority ("SEIAA") on the recommendations of State Level Expert Appraisal Committee ("SEAC").
  
6. That the averments made in news item of the Original Application is related to the alleged incident of blasting of a hillock of the protected Aravali range on the Haryana – Rajasthan border, making it to collapse entirely within a few hours.



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The incident reportedly occurred at Rava village in Nuh, but the Haryana State authorities maintain that it happened in neighbouring Rajasthan.

7. That the subject matter of news item pertains to the state of Haryana and Rajasthan, thereby, CPCB has requested HSPCB and RSPCB vide letter dated 07.03.2025 and reminder dated 24.03.2025 to provide a report comprising factual status and action taken by concerned State Authority, in this matter and to ensure submission of their responses before Hon'ble NGT (PB). However, confirmation of filing of report by them is awaited. The copies of letter dated 07.03.2025 and 24.03.2025, are annexed as **ANNEXURE-1**.
8. That it is humbly submitted that MoEF&CC vide notification S.O. 1886 (E) dated 20.04.2022 has delegated the power to the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) to grant Environmental Clearances to all minor mineral mining project.
9. That the MoEF&CC vide notification no. S.O. 637 (E) dated: 28.02.2014 has delegated the power to SEIAA to issue show cause notice to project proponent in case of violation of the conditions of the environment clearances issued by the said Authorities to projects or activities within their jurisdiction. Accordingly, the mining projects should obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the concerned authority and should also obtain Consent from the concerned SPCB/PCC and the mining projects need to comply with the conditions stipulated in the EC and Consent. The compliance of Environment Clearance and consent conditions is to be ensured by SPCB.
10. That, it is humbly submitted that the matter is related to State Agencies and enforcement/implementation of various provisions of Haryana Minor Mineral



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Concession, Stocking, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2012 and Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017, hence, the relevant State Agencies are better equipped to file status and action taken reports in the alleged incident reported in the newspaper report.

11. That, the answering respondent no. 3 craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional replies if required in future.

12. That, in light of the above submissions, it is respectfully submitted that this answering respondent, i.e., CPCB, shall abide by any order(s) or direction(s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in this Original Application.



**(Praseon Gargava)**  
Scientist 'F'  
Central Pollution Control Board



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**AFFIDAVIT**

I, **Prasoon Gargava**, S/o Late Shri Ramesh Gargava, aged 52 years, Scientist 'F', Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

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 record 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.



*P. Gargava*  
**DEPONENT**  
**Prasoon Gargava**  
Scientist 'F' Divisional Head (PCB)  
**केन्द्रीय 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-1100  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-1100

- 1 MAY 2025

## VERIFICATION

Verified at Delhi on this day of - 1 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.

**प्रसून गार्गव / Prasoan Gargava**  
 वैज्ञानिक 'एफ' एवं प्रभाग प्रमुख (आई.सी.-II) / Scientist 'F' & Divisional Head (PC-II)  
**केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
**Central Pollution Control Board**  
 (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
 (M/o Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
 परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110056  
 Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110056

*P. Gargava*  
**DEPONENT**

**ATTESTED**

*[Signature]*  
 NOTARY PUBLIC, DELHI  
 GOVT. OF INDIA

- 1 MAY 2025





केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA

**E-MAIL & SPEED POST**

CM-13011/26/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO

Date : 07.03.2025

To,

✓ The Member Secretary  
Haryana State Pollution Control Board,  
C-11, Sector-6. Panchkula,  
Haryana-134109

The Member Secretary  
Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, 4,  
Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri,  
Jaipur, Rajasthan 302004

**Sub: Compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 22.01.2025 in O.A. No. 06 of 2025 - reg**

Sir,

Hon'ble NGT has taken up a suo motu matter based on a news item in The Tribune dated 21.12.2024, related to the alleged illegal mining and blast of a hillock of the protected Aravalli range on the Haryana-Rajasthan border.

Hon'ble NGT-PB vide order dated 22.01.2025 has impleaded CPCB, HSPCB, RSPCB, RO-MoEF&CC (Jaipur), RO-MoEF&CC (Chandigarh), District Magistrate (Bharatpur) and District Magistrate (Nuh) as respondent and issued notice for filing the response by way of affidavit and has listed the matter for next hearing on 05.05.2025.

You are requested to arrange to provide a report in this regard comprising factual status and action taken by the concerned authorities, within 15 days

Yours faithfully,

*P. Gargava*

(Prasoon Gargava)

Director & Divisional Head-IPC-II

Copy to:

1. The Regional Director, CPCB- Chandigarh,  
BSNL Telephone Exchange, 2nd Floor, Sector - 49 C, Chandigarh – 160047
2. The Regional Director, CPCB- Bhopal,  
Parivesh Bhawan, Paryavaran Parisar E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462016

**‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032**

Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, New Delhi - 110032

दूरभाष/Tel: 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट/Website : www.cpbc.nic.in



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**केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
**CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार.  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST & CLIMATE CHANGE, GOVT. OF INDIA.**REMINDER 1****E-MAIL & SPEED POST**

CM-13011/26/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO

Date : 24.03.2025

To,

The Member Secretary  
Haryana State Pollution Control Board,  
C-11, Sector-6. Panchkula,  
Haryana-134109

The Member Secretary  
Rajasthan Pollution Control Board, 4,  
Jhalana Institutional Area, Jhalana Doongri,  
Jaipur, Rajasthan 302004

**Sub:** Compliance of Hon'ble NGT order dated 22.01.2025 in O.A. No. 06 of 2025 – reg**Reference :** CPCB letter CM-13011/26/2025-LAW-HO-CPCB-HO/9936-37 dated 07.03.2025

Sir,

Hon'ble NGT has taken up a suo motu matter based on a news item in The Tribune dated 21.12.2024, related to the alleged illegal mining and blast of a hillock of the protected Aravalli range on the Haryana-Rajasthan border.

Hon'ble NGT-PB vide order dated 22.01.2025 has impleaded CPCB, HSPCB, RSPCB, RO-MoEF&CC (Jaipur), RO-MoEF&CC (Chandigarh), District Magistrate (Bharatpur) and District Magistrate (Nuh) as respondent and issued notice for filing the response by way of affidavit and has listed the matter for next hearing on 05.05.2025.

You are requested to arrange to provide a report in this regard comprising factual status and action taken by the concerned authorities, urgently.

Yours faithfully,

(Nazimmuddin)  
I/c IPC-II Division

Copy to:

1. The Regional Director, CPCB- Chandigarh,  
BSNL Telephone Exchange, 2nd Floor, Sector - 49 C, Chandigarh – 160047
2. The Regional Director, CPCB- Bhopal,  
Parivesh Bhawan, Paryavaran Parisar E-5, Arera Colony, Bhopal-462016

**‘परिवेश भवन’ पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली - 110032.**  
**Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi - 110 032.**

दूरभाष /Tel : 43102030, 22305792, वेबसाइट /Website: www.cpcb.nic.in