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**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1380 of 2024**

In the matter of:

Panchtatva Foundation

Applicant

Vs.

Ministry of Environment Forest

And Climate Change & Ors.

Respondent(s)

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1.	Reply on behalf of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in compliance to Hon'ble NGT order dated 23.12.2024 in Original Application No. 1380/2024	

Filed by

*Srinivas Vishven*

**Adv. Srinivas Vishven**

On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board

**Dated: 09.04.2025**

**Place: Delhi**

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL**  
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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT I.E CENTRAL POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD (CPCB)**

1. That the present Original Application ("OA") has been filed by the Panchtatva Foundation raising concerns regarding the adverse effects of **Artificial Light at Night (ALAN)** on ecological and human health. The applicant has contended that excessive and unregulated use of artificial lighting disrupts natural biological processes, including human circadian rhythms, nocturnal wildlife behavior, plant physiology, and migration patterns of species. It has also been submitted by the applicant that there is no framework regulating the use of artificial light in India, such uncontrolled illumination poses a growing threat to environmental and public well-being. The Hon'ble Tribunal, taking cognizance of these concerns, directed issuance of notice dated 23.12.2024 to the Respondents and called for responses by way of affidavit. Thereby, the reply is made in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That the answering Respondent herein, Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as "CPCB"), is a statutory body constituted under Section 3 of the Water (Prevention and 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 to be referred as "Air Act"), and under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

3. That the answering Respondent herein respectfully submits that the purpose and objective of the **Water Act**, the **Air Act** and the **EP Act**, are as follow:
- a. Promote the cleanliness of streams and wells in different area of the States;
  - b. Improve the ambient air quality and to prevent, control, and abate air pollution in the country; and
  - c. Protect and enhance the quality of the environment, and to prevent, control, and abate environmental pollution.

In this regard, the following statutory definitions, as contained in the aforementioned enactments, are of particular relevance:

- **“Pollution”** means such contamination of water or such alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of water or such discharge of any sewage or trade effluent or of any other liquid, gaseous or solid substance into water (whether directly or indirectly) as may, or is likely to, create a nuisance or render such water harmful or injurious to public health or safety, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural or other legitimate uses, or to the life and health of animals or plants or of aquatic organisms (Section 2(e), Water Act).
- **“Sewage effluent”** means effluent from any sewerage system or sewage disposal works and includes sullage from open drains (Section 2(g), Water Act).



- **"Trade effluent"** includes any liquid, gaseous, or solid substance discharged from any premises used for carrying on any industry, operation, process, or treatment and disposal system, other than domestic sewage (Section 2(k), Water Act).
- **"Air pollution"** means the presence in the atmosphere of any air pollutant (Section 2(b), Air Act).
- **"Air pollutant"** means any solid, liquid, or gaseous substance (including noise) present in the atmosphere in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to human beings, other living creatures, plants, property, or the environment (Section 2(a), Air Act)
- **"Emission"** means any solid or liquid or gaseous substance coming out of any chimney, duct or flue or any other outlet (Section 2(j), Air Act)
- **"Environment"** includes water, air, and land and the inter-relationship which exists among and between water, air, and land and human beings, other living creatures, plants, micro-organisms, and property (Section 2(a), EP Act).
- **"Environmental pollution"** means the presence in the environment of any environmental pollutant (Section 2(c), EP Act).
- **"Environmental pollutant"** means any solid, liquid, or gaseous substance present in such concentration as may be, or tend to be, injurious to the environment (Section 2(b), EP Act).



It is respectfully submitted that while the statutory framework under the aforesaid Acts comprehensively addresses pollution arising from water, air, and various waste streams, **it does not explicitly encompass the impact of Artificial Light At Night (ALAN)** under these statutes.

4. That the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, National Standard Body of India, established under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, to facilitate the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. In pursuit of this mandate, the BIS has formulated various standards for artificial lighting systems to ensure their effective, efficient, and context-specific application across sectors.

Some of the key Indian Standards relevant to artificial lighting are as follows:

- a. **IS 18807 (2024)** – This standard pertains to artificial lighting systems used in **protected cultivation** covering parameters such as light quality, intensity, photoperiod, and uniformity to optimize plant growth.
- b. **IS 3646-1 (1992)** – This code of practice provides **general requirements for interior illumination**, emphasizing visual comfort and appropriate lighting levels for various functional spaces such as offices, industrial units, and public buildings.
- c. **IS 6665 (1972)** – This standard provides a code of practice on **industrial lighting, offering guidance** on safe, efficient, and environment- appropriate lighting systems for industrial applications.

In addition, under the **Compulsory Registration Scheme (CRS)**, BIS has mandated that **fixed general-purpose LED luminaires** must conform to **IS 10322 (Part 5): Section 1:2012**. This requirement, effective from **March 1, 2016**, ensures compliance with minimum **safety and performance benchmarks**, thereby promoting product quality and protecting consumer interests.



5. That the answering Respondent respectfully submits that it shall abide by all of the further directions that may be issued by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal in the present matter.



**(G. Thirumurthy)**  
**Scientist 'E'**  
**Central Pollution Control Board**



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**AFFIDAVIT**

I, G. Thirumurthy, working as Scientist E / Head of PCP Division, CPCB office at Parivesh Bhawan, CBD-cum-Office Complex, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That I, the deponent herein has made myself fully aware about the facts from the records and documents available. Thus, I am fully conversant with the facts of the present case and competent to swear this Affidavit.
2. That the affidavit has been filed in compliance with the Order dated 23.12.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal directing to file response by way of affidavit before Hon'ble Tribunal.
3. That the contents of the affidavit are based on the record made available to the deponent and based on the mandates of CPCB.
4. That the contents of the accompanying Reply may kindly be read as part of this affidavit also, the contents thereof are not repeated for the sake of brevity.



11.7.25

**DEPONENT**  
जी. तिरुमूर्थी / G. Thirumurthy  
वैज्ञानिक एवं प्रबंध-अध्यक्ष नियंत्रण विभाग / Scientist & Dir. Head PCP  
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-110032  
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

**VERIFICATION**

Verified at Delhi on this the 09 APR 2025, 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true to my knowledge or derived from the records maintained in the regular course of business, no part thereof is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

11.7.25

**DEPONENT****जी. तिरुमूर्ती / G. Thirumurthy**

वैज्ञानिक 'ई' प्रवासी-प्रदूषण नियंत्रण नियोजन प्रभाग / Scientist 'E' Div. Head PCP  
**केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड**  
**Central Pollution Control Board**  
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
(M/o Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
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Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

**ATTESTED**  
AAG  
NOTARY PUBLIC DELHI (INDIA)

