

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 618 OF 2025**

In the matter of:

Suo Moto: The Research Article titled as "Transforming food land and water systems to combat climate crisis in Ladakh India" appearing in Current Science, Volume 129 Number 8 dated 25.10.2025

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**Filed by Adv. Soni Singh
On behalf of Central Pollution Control Board**

**Place: Delhi
Dated: 09.03.2026**

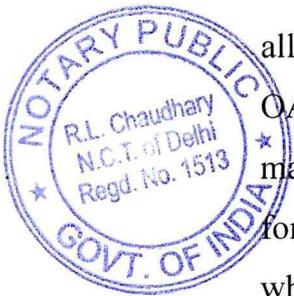
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**REPLY ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
i.e. RESPONDENT NO. 4**

1. That, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench (hereinafter referred as "NGT") vide order dated 02.12.2025 has sought the reply/response of Central Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as "CPCB") in the instant matter i.e. Original Application No. 618/2025 (hereinafter referred to as "OA"). Thereby, the reply is made in the instant OA in succeeding paragraphs.
2. That, at the outset, the answering respondent deny all claims, contentions, allegations and averments against answering respondent CPCB in the referred OA contrary to anything stated or submitted in this reply. Nothing in the OA may be deemed to have been accepted or admitted by the answering Respondent for want of a specific denial or on the ground of non-traverse, save any averment which has been expressly admitted hereinafter.
3. That, CPCB is a statutory Board constituted under Section 3 of The Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1974. It performs the functions under The Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act 1974 (hereinafter referred



as Water Act), The Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (hereinafter referred as Air Act) and The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

4. That the present OA is registered suo moto on the basis of an article titles "Transforming food, land and water systems to combat climate crisis in Ladakh India" appearing in Current Science Volume 129 Number 8 dated 25.10.2025. The article highlights the environmental issues in Ladakh region on account of climate crisis and increasing threat on account of climate change, rapid urbanisation and rapid growth of tourism, leading to water scarcity, glacier retreat, biodiversity loss, and worsening agricultural vulnerability in the region.
5. That regarding improvement of water sustainability through re-use of treated water in irrigation it is submitted that, CPCB has issued "Guidelines for Utilisation of Treated Effluent in Irrigation", (<https://cpcb.nic.in/NGT/Guidelines-UTE-Irrigation.pdf>) wherein it is stipulated that treated effluent shall meet the prescribed norms for irrigation under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and consent conditions. The effluent should also conform to Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) limit of 2100 mg/l and Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR), preferably less than 18 and not exceeding 26 depending upon soil and crop type, in addition to meeting any other parameters recommended by agricultural scientists or agricultural universities/institutes in the Irrigation Management Plan (IMP).
6. That, regarding environmental problems related solid waste arising due to rapid urbanisation and rapid growth of tourism, it is submitted that;
 - a. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (SWM Rules, 2016) vide notification no S. O 1357(E) dated April



8th,2016(https://upload.indiacode.nic.in/showfileactid=AC_CEN_16_18_00011_198629_1517807327582&type=rule&filename=SWM-2016.pdf) . Duties and responsibilities of various agencies have been stipulated in the said rules. The SWM Rules,2016 mandates that all hotels and restaurants shall in partnership with the local body ensure segregation of waste at source, facilitate collection of segregated in separate streams, handover recyclable material to either authorised waste pickers or recyclers. The biodegradable waste shall be processed, treated and disposed of through composting or bio methanation within the premises as far as possible. The residual waste shall be given to the waste collectors or agency as directed by the local body.



- b. The MoEF&CC has also notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (hereinafter, the PWM Rules) vide Notification No. GSR 320(E) dated March 18, 2016, under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (<https://epcb.nic.in/displaypdf.php?id=cGxhc3RpY3dhc3RlLlBXTV9HYXpldHRlLnBkZg==>), to give thrust on plastic waste minimization, source segregation, involving waste pickers, recyclers and waste processors in collection of plastic waste fraction either from households or any other source of its generation or intermediate material recovery facility and adopt polluter's pay principle for the sustainability of the waste management system.

Furthermore, Rule 6 (2) of the PWM Rules states that the local body shall be responsible for setting up, operationalization and co-

ordination of the waste management system and for performing the associated functions, namely: -

- i. Ensuring segregation, collection, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of plastic waste;
- ii. ensuring that no damage is caused to the environment during this process;
- iii. ensuring channelization of recyclable plastic waste fraction to recyclers;
- iv. ensuring processing and disposal on non-recyclable fraction of plastic waste in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Pollution Control Board;
- v. creating awareness among all stakeholders about their responsibilities;
- vi. engaging civil societies or groups working with waste pickers; and
- vii. ensuring that open burning of plastic waste does not take place.



- c. The implementation of the provisions of the SWM Rules, 2016 and the PWM Rules, 2016 (as amended), including infrastructure development for collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes and plastic waste, is a collective mandated responsibility under the aforesaid Rules. The concerned State shall ensure enforcement of the provisions of the SWM Rules, 2016 and PWM Rules, 2016 (as amended) through the local authorities and village Panchayats of census towns and urban agglomeration, as applicable within their respective jurisdiction.

d. The Clause 20 of the SWM rules,2016 stipulates the criteria and actions to be taken by the local authorities for solid waste management in hilly areas. The main provisions include framing of bye laws, prohibiting citizens and tourists from littering of waste on streets, bins to be placed at tourist destinations, levy of solid waste management charge from the tourists at entry point, setting up of transfer stations and regional sanitary landfill down the hills etc.

7. That regarding the issue related to Carbon farming and climate financing including the suggestions like pruned branches from orchard trees can be converted into high- calorific wood pellets to meet heating needs during harsh winters, etc., it is submitted that use of wood pellets derived from pruned orchard branches for heating or any other purpose may be examined by the concerned State/UT, i.e., the Administration of the Union Territory of Ladakh in the present case.

8. That, the answering respondent no. 4 craves leave of the Hon'ble Tribunal to file additional replies if required in future.

9. 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.




(Anil C. Ranveer)
Scientist 'F'
Central Pollution Control Board
09.03.2026

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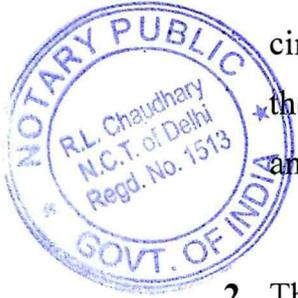
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AFFIDAVIT

I, **Anil C. Ranveer**, aged about 43 Years in the capacity of Scientist 'F', 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 the deponent is authorized representative to represent the Respondent CPCB in the present case, and as such, I am 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 and authorized 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 as I am competent to swear this 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.




DEPONENT

अनिल सी. रणवीर/Anil C. Ranveer
वैज्ञानिक 'च'/Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
Central Pollution Control Board
पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
M/o Env. Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India
परिवेश भवन, पूर्वी अर्जुन नगर, दिल्ली-110032
Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

VERIFICATION

Verified at New Delhi on this day of 09 March, 2026, that the contents of the above reply are correct and true based on the records of the case as mentioned in the day-to-day affairs of the CPCB. Nothing has been concealed therefrom or misstated.



DEPONENT

अनिल सी. रणवीर/Anil C. Ranveer
वैज्ञानिक 'च'/Scientist 'F'
केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
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Parivesh Bhawan, East Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110032

ATTESTED
NOTARY PUBLIC
GOVT. OF INDIA
09 MAR 2026