

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

Original Application No. 462/2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Kuldeep Singh

Applicant

Versus

State of Haryana & Ors.

Respondent

INDEX

Sr. No.	Particular	Dated	Page No.
1	Reply on behalf of Respondent no. 1 (State of Haryana th. Principal Secretary EF&CC, Govt. of Haryana, 2 (District Magistrate Fatehabad) and 4 (Divisional Forest officer, Fatehabad) along with supporting documents.	05.01.2026	1-4
3	Annexure- R/1: Copy of Site Inspection report.	16.12.2025	5-10

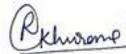
Place: Fatehabad

Date: 05-01-2026


(Rajesh Kumar, H.F.S.)

Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad,
respondent No. 4

for and on behalf of respondents No. 1, 2 & 4.



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Respondent

Reply on behalf of Respondent no. 1. (State of Haryana th. Principal Secretary, Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Govt. of Haryana, 2. (District Magistrate Fatehabad) and 4. (Divisional Forest officer, Fatehabad)

Most Respectfully Showeth:

1. That Sh. Kuldeep Singh applicant sent the present letter petition dated 24.05.2025 by post to this Hon'ble Tribunal. And the Hon'ble Tribunal passed order dated 14.10.2025, operative part of the said order dated 14.10.2025 is reproduced as under :-

“ 3 English translation of the relevant part of the letter petition made by the Registry of this Tribunal read as under:-

“It is requested that I Kuldeep Singh son of Jevu Singh resident of village Myond Khurd Tehsil Tohana District Fatehabad and on 27.11.2024, the Sarpanch of village Myond Khurd was getting 40-50 green trees standing in the cremation ground of the village cut, when I came to know about the said matter and when I talked to the Sarpanch, the Sarpanch told me that I myself am getting these green trees cut while the government is encouraging plantation and then I informed the Forest Department officials about this, then the Forest Department officials stopped the illegal work being done by the Sarpanch on 28.11. 2024. I also made a video of the said matter. I complained about this in CM Window on 28.11.2024 regarding the said matter, whose complaint number is 0.115693 dated 28.11.2024. On which I received a notice dated 10.12. On 05.12.2024, I was called by Block Development and Panchayat Officer Jakhhal for

2/11

investigation of the matter under number 6050 and I gave all the evidence to Block Development and Panchayat Officer Jakhal but he did not listen to me. After this, I again sent a reminder in CM Window on 05.12.2024, whose complaint number is 118714 dated 05.12.2024. In relation to which I was called by Block Development and Panchayat Officer on number 107 dated 16.01.2025 and my statement was recorded. But no one heard me and neither my statements were uploaded in CM Window. I wrote a complaint regarding this matter on 24.12.2024 to Block Development and Panchayat Officer Jakhal for 2 impartial investigation of both the complaints, on which no cognizance was taken. I gave a complaint regarding the above case on 14.02.2025 to the Deputy Commissioner of Fatehabad, which was also investigated by the Block Development and Panchayat Officer Jakhal and no action was taken on all my complaints and my complaints were dismissed by making a false report, whereas I also have a video of the Sarpanch cutting and loading green trees. When the said cutting was stopped by the Forest Department, I also have an audio recording of the said case. After several complaints, when the village secretary Raj Kumar, assistant to BDPO Jakhal, came to the crematorium to see the spot, he was informed about the matter that the cutting was done without the permission of any department. I also have a video of seeing the spot. I am sending all the videos, documents etc. of the said case in a pen drive so that proper action can be taken in the matter. Therefore, it is requested that the Sarpanch has cut down 40-50 green trees without the permission of any department, which has caused great damage to the environment. Therefore, strict legal action should be taken against the guilty Sarpanch and other employees and officers in the above case and justice should be done to me.”

List on 07.01.2026 for further consideration.”

2. That this reply is being filed through respondent no. 4 who is authorized and competent to file the reply on behalf of respondent No. 1, 2 and 4.
3. That as per order dated 14.10.2025, a joint committee was constituted by the Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad under the chairmanship of Sub Divisional Officer (C) Tohana, 1. Chairman cum representative of Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad, 2. Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad, 3.

Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Jakhal District Fatehabad, 4. Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat, Meond Khurd Tehsil Tohana & District Fatehabad and 5. Regional Officer, HSPCB Fatehabad.

4. That the said site of complaint i.e. cremation ground, village Meond Khurd, Teshil Tohana & District Fatehabad was inspected by joint committee under the Chairmanship of Sh. Akash Sharma, SDM (C), Tohana, Sh. Ramesh, Panchayat Secretary, Representative of BDPO, Jakhal District Fatehabad, Sh. Deepak, Scientist-B representative of Regional officer, HSPCB, Fatehabad with respondent no. 4 i.e. Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad on 16.12.2025. After site inspection, it is observed that after felling of tree and cleaning of the ground, the site was filled with 2 to 3 feet of sand and no remains were found of the felled trees. Neither any permission, nor any approval was taken by the Gram Panchayat, Meond Khurd Tehsil Tohana & District Fatehabad for felling of trees. The site is not covered under the Section 4-5 of Punjab Land Preservation Act, 1900 and Indian Forest Act, 1927. The legal status of the land is Panchayat land. However, based on the photos provided by the complainant, during the said inspection, it seems 3-4 trees were cut down or fallen. The detailed report is attached as **Annexure-R-1**.

5. In view of the above submissions, it is respectfully submitted that the answering respondents has taken all sincere steps in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Tribunal. Therefore, it is prayed that the present Original Application may kindly be dismissed qua respondent No. 01, 02, and 04. The answering respondents undertake to abide by and comply with any further directions passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

In view of submissions made herein above, it is humbly prayed to dismiss present original application. Answering respondents undertake to comply with the directions passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

Place: Fatehabad

(Rajesh Kumar, H.F.S.)

Date: 05-01-2026

Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad,
respondent No. 4

for and on behalf of respondents No. 1, 2 & 4.

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL,
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Original Application No. 462 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

Kuldeep Singh

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Versus

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Respondent

AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajesh Kumar, HFS, Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under :-

1. That in the aforesaid official capacity, I am well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and is authorized to file the present reply on behalf of Respondent No. 1, 2 & 4. Therefore, I am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That I have gone through the contents of accompanying reply which has been drafted under my instructions.

Dated: 05-01-2026

Place: Fatehabad

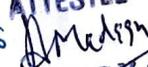

Deponent

Verification:

Verified that the contents of affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and on the basis of information derived from the official record which I believe to be true and no material fact has been concealed therein.

Dated: 05-01-2026

Place: Fatehabad

ATTESTED

NOTARY 5.1.26
Fatehabad (Haryana)




Deponent

Annexure - R-1

Joint Inspection Report

In compliance with the directions received from the Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad and the request from the Regional Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), Fatehabad, regarding the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) Principal Bench, New Delhi order dated 14.10.2025 in O.A. No. 462/2025 titled Kuldeep Singh Vs. State of Haryana & ors. a joint committee is constituted vide order dated 12-12-2025 of Sub Divisional Officer (C), Tohana as follows:-

Sr. No.	Designation / Representative	Department / Body
1.	Sub Divisional Officer (C), Tohana	Chairman, Representative of Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad
2.	Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad	Divisional Forest Officer (T), Fatehabad
3.	Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Jakhal	Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Jakhal
4.	Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat Meond Khurd	Gram Panchayat Meond Khurd
5.	Sh. Deepak, Scientist - B, HSPCB, Fatehabad	Representative of Regional Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), Fatehabad

1. FACTS AND BACKGROUND:

- a) That Sh. Kudeep Singh son of Sh. Jethu Singh Resident of Village Meond Khurd Tehsil Tohana and Distrit Fatehabad filed a complaint through CM Window portal against the Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat, Meond Khurd that on dated 27.11.2024, the Sarpanch of village Meond Khurd was cutting down 40 - 50 Green Trees standing in the cremation ground of the village, when the complainant came to know about the said matter and when he talked to Sarpanch, the Sarpanch told him that the Sarpanch himself is getting those green trees cut, while the government is encouraging plantation and then complainant informed the Forest Department Officials about this, the Forest Department

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Officials stopped the illegal work being done by the Sarpanch on 28.11.2024. Complainant made a video of the said matter.

- b) According to the petition made by the complainant in the O.A. No. 462/2025 the complainant on dated 24.12.2024 gave a complaint to BDPO, Jakhal and on dated 14.02.2025 gave a complaint to Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad. Complaint of Sh. Kuldeep Singh received in the Office of District Development and Panchayat Officer, Fatehabad on dated 25.01.2025.
- c) A three member committee for the investigation of the matter was constituted by District Development and Panchayat Officer, Fatehabad vide letter no. 314-16 dated 28.02.2025. The three member committee comprises of 1. Social Education and Panchayat Officer, Jakhal 2. Junior Engineer (P.R.), Block Jakhal and 3. Gram Sachiv, Block Jakhal.
- d) The three member committee inspected the site of *Shamsham Bhuni* of village Meond Khurd on dated 04.03.2025 and submitted its report, the relevant extract of the report is as under:-
- e) "After Site Inspection Statements of people, Ex-Sarpanch, Ex-Panch, present Panch, cleaning labourers of Shamshan Bhumi and officials of Forest Department were documented. After site inspection it is found that a neem tree was felled in the middle of Shamshan Bhumi before the Sarpanch get done the work of Land Filling and cleaning. The wood of said tree was kept aside in the Shamshan Bhumi by the Sarpanch for crematory purpose of poor people and No tree was sold by the Sarpanch after cutting of tree."
- f) The complaint of Sh. Kuldeep Singh was disposed of by the Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad vide letter no. 1657/Panchayat Dated 28.05.2025, a copy of which was sent to Sh. Kuldeep Singh vide Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad's office ends. No. 1658-60/Panchayat Dated 28.05.2025.

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2. FINDINGS:

In compliance of Order Dated 12-12-2025 of Sub Divisional Officer (C), Tohana, on dated 16-12-2025 the committee members constituted by Deputy Commissioner, Fatehabad visited the alleged site of offence at Shamshan Bhuni in Village Meond Khurd Tehsil Tohana and District Fatehabad for fact findings and site inspection.

On site inspection, it was found that the alleged Shamshan Bhumi Land is filled with sand and no remains of felled trees were found.

During site inspection it is found that 57 Nos. of Trees were standing on the land of Shamshan Bhumi of Village Meond Khurd. Detail of trees standing on the land of Shamshan Bhumi is as under:-

Sr. No.	Species	Girth	Class	Condition
1.	Sheesham	50	V	Green Stand
2.	Sheesham	44	V	Green Stand
3.	Sheesham	34	V	Green Stand
4.	Bakain	36	V	Green Stand
5.	Bakain	43	V	Green Stand
6.	Bakain	45	V	Green Stand
7.	Bakain	53	V	Green Stand
8.	Bakain	54	V	Green Stand
9.	Bakain	50	V	Dry Stand
10.	Neem	100	III	Green Stand
11.	Neem	95	II	Green Stand
12.	Shahtoot	45	V	Green Stand
13.	Neem	100	III	Dry Stand
14.	Neem	96	III	Green Stand
15.	Neem	138	II-A	Green Stand
16.	Dhaak	95	III	Dry Fallen
17.	Dhaak	105	III	Dry Stand
18.	Neem	118	III	Green Stand
19.	Subabool	134	II-A	Green Stand
20.	Sheesham	45	V	Green Stand
21.	Sheesham	39	V	Green Stand
22.	Bakain	39	V	Green Stand

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23	Sheesham	32	V	Green Stand
24	Sheesham	45	V	Green Stand
25	Sheesham	39	V	Green Stand
26	Neem	94	III	Green Stand
27	Neem	99	III	Green Stand
28	Dhaak	84	IV	Green Stand
29	Neem	50	V	Green Stand
30	Subabool	36	V	Green Stand
31	Bakain	51	V	Green Stand
32	Dhaak	94	III	Green Fallen
33	Dhaak	134	II-A	Green Fallen
34	Bakain	54	V	Green Fallen
35	Dhaak	118	III	Green Fallen
36	Dhaak	96	III	Green Fallen
37	Dhaak	108	III	Green Fallen
38	Neem	81	IV	Green Fallen
39	Dhaak	102	III	Green Stand
40	Bakain	55	V	Green Stand
41	Sheesham	40	V	Green Stand
42	Dhaak	100	III	Green Stand
43	Bakain	86	IV	Green Stand
44	Bakain	41	V	Green Stand
45	Bakain	78	IV	Green Stand
46	Bakain	68	IV	Green Stand
47	Dhaak	119	III	Green Stand
48	Dhaak	55	V	Green Stand
49	Shahtoot	36	V	Green Stand
50	Shahtoot	35	V	Green Stand
51	Neem	118	III	Dry Stand
52	Neem	52	V	Dry Stand
53	Neem	38	V	Dry Stand
54	Neem	80	IV	Green Stand
55	Neem	75	IV	Dry Stand
56	Sheesham	130	II-A	Dry Stand
57	Bakain	69	IV	Dry Stand

Other than trees, following 22 Nos. of pole size plants in alive condition also found on the land of Shamsham Bhumi, Meyond Khurd.

- 4 Nos. of Pole Size Sheesham.
 7 Nos. of Pole Size Neem.
 2 Nos. of Pole Size Amrood.
 4 Nos. of Pole Size Shahtoot.
 1 Nos. of Pole Size Bar.
 1 Nos. of Pole Size Jamun.
 1 Nos. of Pole Size Amaltash.
 1 Nos. of Pole Size Bakain.
 1 Nos. of Pole Size Dhaak.

Species	0-30 cm.	30-60 cm.	60-90 cm.	90-120 cm.	Total Trees (excl. Pole Size)	Volume (in m ³)
Shisham	9	0	0	1	10	01.67
Kikar	0	0	0	0	0	0
Euc.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc.	19	8	17	3	47	4.53
TOTAL	28	8	17	4	57	17.01

3. PROPERTY SEIZED:

No wood is seized from the site of occurrence i.e. Shamshan Bhumi, Village Meond Khurd Tehsil Tohana and District Fatehabad. No remains or evidence were found of the felled tree.

4. FINAL REPORT:

After site inspection on dated 16.12.2025 at Shamsham Bhumi in Village Meond Khurd Tehsil Tohana and District Fatehabad it is observed that after felling of tree and cleaning of the ground, the site was filled with 2 to 3 feet of sand and no remains were found of the felled trees.

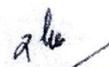
Neither any permission nor any approval was taken by the Gram Panchayat, Meyond Khurd Tehsil Tohana and District Fatehabad for felling of trees. The site is not covered under the section 4-5 of Punjab Land

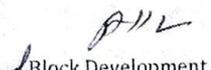
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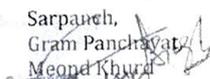
Preservation Act, 1900 and Indian Forest Act, 1927. The legal status of the said land is Panchayat Land. However, based on the photos provided by the complainant during the site inspection, it seems 3 - 4 trees were cut down or fallen.

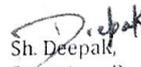
The Joint Committee report is submitted as above.


Sub Divisional
Officer (C),
Tohana


Divisional Forest
Officer,
Fatehabad


Block Development
and Panchayat
Officer,
Jakhhal
B. D. & P. O.
JAKHAL


Sarpanch,
Gram Panchayat,
Meond Khurd
G.P., Meond Begamwari (Khurd),
Jakhhal (Fatehabad)


Sh. Deepak,
Scientist - B,
HSPCB,
Fatehabad

TRUE COPY


DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
Fatehabad Forest Division
Fatehabad