

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

INDEX

IN

OA No. 422 of 2025

News item titled "Experts blame decades of deodar tree felling for worsening Uttarkashi cloudburst" appearing in The New Indian Express dated 10.08.2025.

RESPONSE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF MEMBER SECRETARY,
UTTARAKHAND POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
(RESPONDENT NO.4)

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K. P. Gautam
Advocate
Supreme Court of India
Reg. No. D/119/98

Kausal Gautam, Advocate

Dated : 07.02.2026

(Counsel for Respondent No. 4)



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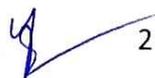
Affidavit of Dr. Parag Madhukar Dhakate, aged about 51 years S/o Shri. M.B Dhakate presently posted as Member Secretary, Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board, Uttarakhand.

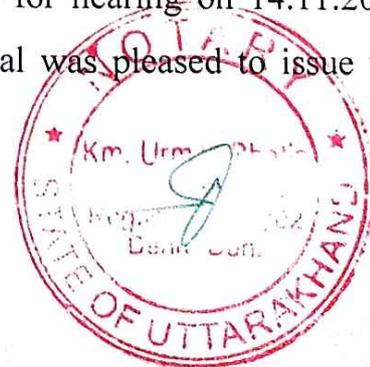
Deponent

I, the above-named deponent does hereby solemnly affirm and state on as under: -

1. That the deponent is presently posted as the Member Secretary and is duly authorized to sign and file the instant affidavit and as he is well acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case.
2. That the above-mentioned matter was listed for hearing on 14.11.2025 wherein the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was pleased to issue the following directions:

"...

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3. We find that description of respondent no.4 is incorrect. Hence, we correct the description of respondent no.4 as under: Respondent no.4- Uttarakhand, Pollution Control Board through Member Secretary.

4. Let notice be served upon respondent no.4 on the new description as noted above.

...”

3. That it is humbly submitted that it is respectfully submitted that the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board is a statutory authority constituted under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. However, the allegations in the present Original Application primarily pertain to deodar tree felling, loss of forest cover, and the role of deodar forests in ecological protection, which fall within the domain of the State Forest Department and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
4. That the UKPCB performs functions such as providing data with respect to environment compensation, monitoring of pollution and reporting environmental degradation in the area concerned. Therefore, the role of the Board may be related to conducting monitoring of environment quality post-disaster, preventing discharge of debris into water bodies, monitoring water and air quality, collecting data and calculating environment compensation etc.
5. That it is further submitted that it shall extend all such assistance as may be directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal for effective implementation of its orders and for ensuring compliance with the statutory objectives relating to environmental protection.
6. That the deponent is a responsible government servant having the highest regard for the Hon'ble Tribunal and orders passed by them. The deponent has always made his sincerest efforts to carry out the orders passed by



this Hon'ble Tribunal in its letter and spirit and shall continue to do so in response.

[Signature]
Deponent

Verification:-

Verified at Dehradun on the 07. day of February 2026, that the contents of the accompanying response affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief based on the official record and nothing is false and no material has been concealed therein.

[Signature]
Deponent

Dated:

Identified by: *Rajanku Jina*
Advocate
Uk/1475/2022

Rajanku Jina
07/02/26

[Signature]

affidavit is sworn before me by
.....*Dr. Raj Madhukar Sharma*.....
is identified Sri.....*Rajanku Jina Adv.*.....
Dehradun on.....*07/2/26*.....

KM. URMILA BHATIA
Advocate & NOTARY, Dehradun

