

IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH
NEW DELHI
O.A. NO.727/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:-

NEWS ITEM TITLED "ENDANGERED GANGETIC DOLPHINS
FOUND IN MOST TRIBUTARIES OF GANGES PROMPTING URGENT
CONSERVATION" APPEARING IN MONGABY INDIA DATED
20.05.2024 ...APPLICANT

VERSUS

WILDLIFE INSTITUTE OF INDIA & ORS.

...RESPONDENTS

INDEX

NDOH:29.05.2026

<u>SL. NO.</u>	<u>PARTICULARS</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
1.	Affidavit of Compliance on behalf of the Principal Chief Conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden, government of Jharkhand, in compliance of the Orders dated 04.09.2025, 26.11.2025 and 18.02.2026	1-7

PAPER BOOK

(KUMAR ANURAG SINGH)
ADVOCATE, STATE OF JHARKHAND
11-B, LGF, JANGPURA-B,
MATHURA ROAD,
NEW DELHI-110024
MOB-9999234432

MAIL ID:OFFICE@KUMARANURAGSINGH.COM

PLACE:NEW DELHI

DATE:25.05.2026



Government of Jharkhand

Receipt of Online Payment of Stamp Duty

NON JUDICIAL

Receipt Number : 0ab250acb87c0c65c6e0

Receipt Date : 25-May-2026 01:25:31 pm

Receipt Amount : 100/-

Amount In Words : One Hundred Rupees Only

Document Type : Affidavit

District Name : Sahibganj

Stamp Duty Paid By : PRABAL GARG

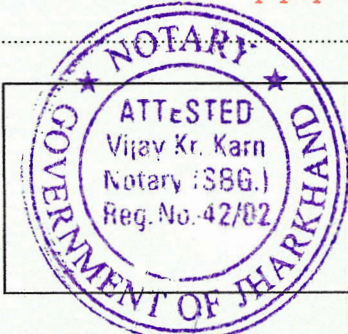
Purpose of stamp duty paid : AFFIDAVIT

First Party Name : PRABAL GARG

Second Party Name : SELF

GRN Number : 2602443192

-: This stamp paper can be verified in the jharnibandhan site through receipt number :-



No. 23 Date 25/5/26



This Receipt is to be used as proof of payment of stamp duty only for one document. The use of the same receipt as proof of payment of stamp duty in another document through reprint, photo copy or other means is penal offence under section-62 of Indian Stamp Act, 1899

इस रसीद का उपयोग केवल एक ही दस्तावेज पर मुद्रांक शुल्क का भुगतान के प्रमाण हेतु ही किया जा सकता है। पुनः प्रिन्ट कर अथवा फोटो कॉपी आदि द्वारा इसी रसीद का दुसरे दस्तावेज पर मुद्रांक शुल्क का भुगतान के प्रमाण हेतु उपयोग भारतीय मुद्रांक अधिनियम, 1899 की धारा 62 अन्तर्गत दण्डनीय अपराध है।

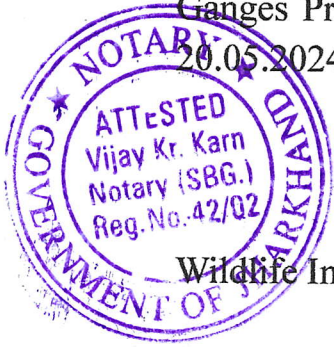
BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

No. 93 Date 25/5/24

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 727 OF 2024

IN THE MATTER OF: -

News Item Titled "Endangered Gangetic Dolphins Found in Most Tributaries of Ganges Prompting Urgent Conservation" Appearing in Mongaby- India Dated 20.05.2024



VERSUS

Wildlife Institute of India & Ors.

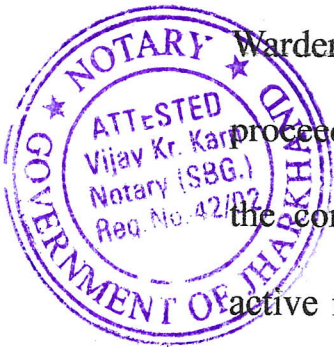
...RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE ON BEHALF OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS AND CHIEF WILDLIFE WARDEN, GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND, IN COMPLIANCE OF THE ORDERS DATED 04.09.2025, 26.11.2025 AND 18.02.2026:

I, Prabal Garg, age 34 years, S/o Shri Parma Prasad Singh, presently posted as Divisional Forest Officer, Sahibganj Forest Division do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows: -

1. That I am currently working as Divisional Forest Officer, Sahibganj, Jharkhand. That I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the matter as per the records and as such I am competent to swear and affirm this Affidavit.

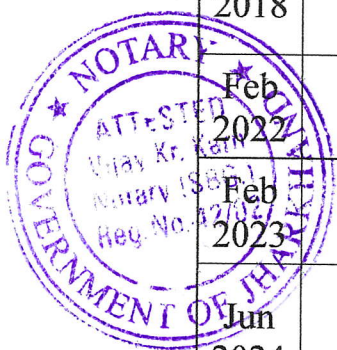
2. That the present Original Application No. 727 of 2024, *News Item Titled "Endangered Gangetic Dolphins Found in Most Tributaries of Ganges Prompting Urgent Conservation" Appearing in Mongabay- India Dated 20.05.2024 vs Wildlife Institute of India & Ors.*, pertains to issues concerning the measures undertaken for the protection and conservation of endangered Gangetic Dolphins within the State of Jharkhand.
3. That the present affidavit is being filed in compliance with the order dated 04.09.2025, 26.11.2025 & 18.02.2026, with liberty to raise additional issues, if it be necessary at all. Liberty is further craved in making such other and further submission as may be directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal.
4. That this Hon'ble Tribunal, vide order dated 04.09.2025, was pleased to implead the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Jharkhand, as Respondent No. 7 in the present proceedings, in view of the observation that the Chief Wildlife Wardens of the concerned States through which the River Ganga flows can play an active role at the ground level for protection and conservation of Gangetic Dolphins.
5. That, in compliance with the directions passed by the Hon'ble Tribunal, the answering Respondent most respectfully submits that, within the State of Jharkhand, the River Ganges flows only through one district, namely Sahibganj. The said stretch, extending approximately 80 kilometres from downstream Manihari at the Bihar-Jharkhand border up to the Farakka



Barrage in the State of West Bengal, supports a stable and healthy population of Ganges River Dolphins.

6. It is further submitted that the active river channel undergoes periodic shifts across State boundaries owing to annual monsoonal flooding. The population estimates of the Ganges River Dolphin in the Jharkhand (Sahibganj) stretch are set out hereinbelow:

Year	Estimated attendance	Range	Survey Agency	Method	Remarks
1998	115	-	Patna University Prof. R. K. Sinha		
Dec 2014	175	162-190	Bhagalpur University & ATREE	Double Observer Survey	Estimates point towards seasonal variation/migration with highest in spring and winters and summers/ pre monsoon
Nov 2017	155	150-161			
Mar 2018	241	200-280	Wildlife Institute of India		
Feb 2022	260	238-282	Wild Conservation Trust		
Feb 2023	297	285-309			
Jun 2024	256	233-279	Wildlife Institute of India	Rapid Survey	
Feb 2026	Report Awaited		Wildlife Institute of India	Double Observer Survey	Part of Second Range wide Estimation of Riverine and Estuarine Dolphins



7. That, in compliance with the mandate of protection and conservation of the endangered Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), the answering respondent has undertaken various regulatory and conservation measures within the Sahibganj stretch of the River Ganga:

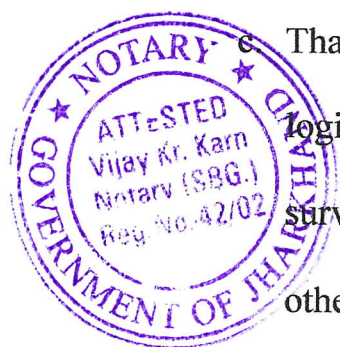
a. That regular boat-based as well as foot-based patrolling is being conducted by Dolphin Watchers (engaged by the Forest Department exclusively for monitoring river-based activities detrimental to the survival and habitat of the Ganges River Dolphin), including illegal fishing, poaching, and other anthropogenic disturbances;

b. That, in cases involving illegal fishing activities, poaching attempts, or any act adversely affecting protected aquatic fauna, appropriate offences are being registered and prosecuted under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972;

c. That the State authorities are extending necessary assistance and logistical support for the conduct of the nationwide biennial dolphin survey, including deployment of departmental staff, patrol boats, and other requisite infrastructure for effective implementation of the survey exercise within the Jharkhand stretch of the River Ganga;

d. That, in the unfortunate event of any dolphin mortality, post-mortem examination is conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed scientific and veterinary protocols for ascertainment of the cause of death.

Thereafter, the concerned competent authorities are duly informed and



disposal/cremation of the carcass is undertaken in compliance with the established guidelines and statutory procedures.

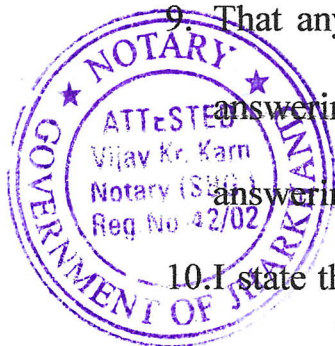
8. It is further submitted that activities envisaged under the Dolphin Conservation Action Plan are being actively implemented in the Sahibganj Forest Division. The major activities undertaken and completed include establishment of a Nature Interpretation Centre dedicated to the Gangetic River Dolphin, procurement of patrol boats and drones for surveillance and monitoring purposes, organization of awareness and sensitization programmes for school and college students, and outreach initiatives for fishermen regarding by-catch management practices and the ecological significance of the Gangetic River Dolphin and its habitat.

9. That any non-compliance of order passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal by the answering respondent is neither intentional nor within the control of the answering respondent herein.

10. I state that the statements of facts mentioned therein are all true and correct to my knowledge and nothing material has been concealed therefrom, and no part of it is false.

11. That, the Annexures annexed with this Affidavit are true and correct translated/typed copies of their respective original.

12. That the present case is being filed in *bona fide* and in the interest of justice.





25/5/2020
DEPONENT

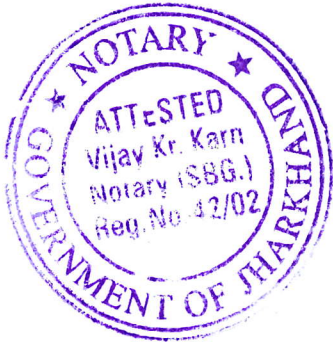
VERIFICATION

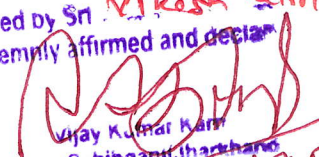
I, the deponent above named do hereby verify that the averments made in paragraphs 1 to 12 of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Sahibganj, on this 25th day of May, 2026.

I, I identified the deponent
H. K. K. K.
25/5/26
Advocate / Sahibganj


25/5/26
DEPONENT



Sri/Smt. Prabal Gang
Who is identified by Sri M. Kesh Kumar
Advocate. Solemnly affirmed and declared
before me

Vijay Kumar Karn
Notary Sahibganj, Jharkhand
25/5/2026