

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
Original Application No. 633/2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item titled "The curious case of Delhi's disappearing water bodies"
appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024

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1.	Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 5-Geospatial Delhi Limited (GSDL) in terms of Order dated 17.09.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal	1-6

FILED BY:

NEW DELHI
DATED: 01.01.2025


(JYOTI MENDIRATTA)
Advocate for the Respondent No. 5

Sign

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appearing in The Hindu dated 25.04.2024

Additional Affidavit on behalf of Respondent No. 5- Geospatial Delhi Limited (GSDL) in terms of Order dated 17.09.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal

I, Shashi Kumar Taneja, aged 47 years, S/o Late Sh. N.L. Taneja, working as the Company Secretary, Geospatial Delhi Limited (a Government of India Company) and in that capacity, I am conversant with the facts and circumstances of the case and competent to swear this affidavit, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That in the present OA, a report dated 11.09.2024 was filed by the answering Respondent No. 5 (GSDL) stating that satellite imagery was used by it, *inter-alia*, to identify 344 additional potential water bodies in Delhi and upon identification, GSDL forwarded this data to Wetland Authority of Delhi, for ground verification.
2. That this Hon'ble Tribunal vide Order dated 17.09.2024, after considering the abovementioned report, was pleased to direct the



S.K. Taneja

answering Respondent No. 5 to provide detailed information about all notified and claimed/alleged water bodies as under:

“In its response Respondent No. 5 has not provided information in respect of all notified and claimed/alleged water bodies including the water spread area as per the revenue records and the list prepared. Respondent No. 5 is directed to make appropriate survey of the water bodies that are listed in the revenue map and provide relevant information to the concerned authorities. Thereafter file further action taken report at least one week before the next date of hearing.”

3. That as submitted earlier, GSDL collaborates with government agencies such as Wetland Authority of Delhi (WAD) and other concerned departments through its expertise in Geographic Information System (GIS) based data services, specifically, by facilitating the mapping of water bodies and providing geospatial data and information support to WAD, by using satellite imagery, GIS, Remote Sensing technology and base maps already available with GSDL, as well as analytical assessments, all derived from data inputs provided by WAD.
4. That GSDL had received a dataset comprising 1045 inland water bodies from WAD with geographic coordinates (latitude/longitude)



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through Letter No. 5(03)/WA/GSDL/2020-21/681-683 dated 04-05-2022 and Email dated 21-09-2023. The mapping of these water bodies was completed and the status communicated via email dated 06-05-2022, inter-alia as under:

- a. A Comprehensive Water Bodies List of 1004;
 - b. 13 Duplicate Water Bodies List which were mentioned twice over;
 - c. 30 Water Bodies which were not found due to unavailability/incorrect of geo-coordinates; and
 - d. 344 additional potential water bodies identified using satellite imagery and visual interpretation.
5. As such, the role of GSDL in this process is limited to providing technical assistance and geospatial data. The responsibility for survey, ground truthing, physical verification of the water bodies, and further actions lies with the water body owning agencies and other concerned government departments and the Revenue Department for the concerned Districts.
6. That therefore, the field inspection was conducted by the Revenue Department whereupon the following data was received by GSDL from Central and West Districts:
- a. Central District:



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- i. Received a list of 23 inland water bodies post-field inspection.
- ii. Of these, 19 were successfully mapped, while 4 water bodies could not be identified on the ground (on account of lack of geo-coordinates).
- iii. A map after plotting the said 19 mapped water bodies, with satellite imagery as the backdrop, was shared with both the Central District and WAD.

b. West District:

- i. Received a list of 71 inland water bodies post-field inspection.
- ii. All 71 water bodies were mapped, and maps with satellite imagery were shared with the West District and WAD.

7. That it is reiterated that GSDL serves solely as a technical facilitator, providing high-quality technical geospatial support in alignment with its defined scope of work such as:

- a. Mapping and geospatial analysis; and
- b. Preparing maps with satellite imagery for visualization purposes.



S. Jayin

However, GSDL does not:

- a. Participate in decision-making regarding the status, classification, or encroachment of water bodies and wetlands; or
- b. Conduct ground verification, validation, or authentication of data.

Therefore, as far as Data Ownership and Validation is concerned;

- a. All locational data, including latitude and longitude coordinates, are provided by WAD or other concerned departments.
- b. GSDL uses this data to perform a desktop-based GIS analysis within its lab, leveraging base maps and satellite imagery.
- c. Verification, validation, and ground-truthing or authentication of wetland and water body information is responsibility of WAD and/or the concerned respective departments including the revenue department.



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8. The present status report is being placed before this Hon'ble Tribunal for its kind consideration.

S. K. Jais

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION:

31 DEC 2024

Identify the deponent who has signed in my presence

Verified at New Delhi on this day of December, 2024 that the contents made in the abovementioned affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and from information received by me which I believe to be true and correct and are also nothing material has been suppressed or concealed therein.

ATTESTED
[Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC

31 DEC 2024



S. K. Jais

DEPONENT