

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN ZONE BENCH, PUNE

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 53 OF 2025 (WZ)

[Earlier Original Application No.180 of 2025 (PB)]

IN RE: NEWS ITEM APPEARING IN TIMES OF INDIA
DATED 02.04.2025, TITLED "21 DIES AS BLAST
FLATTENS GUJARAT FIRECRACKER GODOWN"

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF GUJARAT POLLUTION CONTROL
BOARD**

I, Mehul Patel, adult, having my office at Paryavaran Bhavan, Section 10A, Gandhinagar, do hereby solemnly affirm and state an oath as under:

1. I am presently serving as the Unit Head – Palanpur with Gujarat Pollution Control Board. I have perused the record pertaining to the case available in my office and am conversant with the facts of the case. I am authorized to swear the present affidavit on behalf of the Gujarat Pollution Control Board and am otherwise competent to make the present affidavit.
2. I am filing the present affidavit in compliance with order dated 07.07.2025 by which the Hon'ble Tribunal has directed the Board to file its affidavit in reply in the captioned matter.
3. I say that an unfortunate incident involving a blast took place on 01.04.2025 at about 9:30 AM at the premises of one M/s Deepak Traders at Plot No. 3, 4, 5, paiki 556, paiki 1 and 2, GIDC to Dhuva Road, Deesa,



Dee

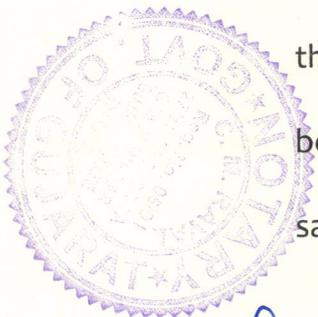
Banaskantha, Gujarat. There were casualties as also injuries sustained by some persons.

4. I say that on receiving information about the said incident the officials of the Board visited the premise at about 11:00 AM to ascertain whether there has been deterioration in the ambient air quality or release of any other pollutants because of the blast and if yes, assess the extent of damage to the environment and take remedial measures.
5. The officials of the Pollution Control Board observed a general decline in the ambient air quality. However, no significant air pollution was noticed, mainly because considerable time had lapsed since the time of blast and the fire had been substantially doused by the fire-fighting agency.
6. I say that instructions were given to ensure that the water sprayed at the site is collected in a proper manner and that the said water is not released indiscriminately. About 70 KL water was used for the purpose of putting out the fire and most of the sprayed water got evaporated, mainly because of the immediate increase in the temperature of the rubble and other material lying at the site. Consequently, at the time of visit no water ponding was noticed. Yet, appropriate monitoring was done of the waste water generated during the fire-fighting process and its proper discharge in consonance with environmental norms.



Dev

7. I say that all reasonable steps to mitigate the damage to environment were suggested and implemented by the State Pollution Control Board. It is declared that there was no alarming pollution either of air or water in the surrounding area.
8. At the site, the officials of the State Pollution Control Board noticed residue of aluminum powder, sulphur and yellow dextrine in the immediate vicinity of the blast and about 200-300 kilograms of sulphur stored at a distance from the blast area. Some other manufacturing material was also noticed at the site, suggesting that the site was possibly used not just for sale of fire crackers but also for storing and potentially manufacturing fire crackers.
9. As regards the cause of the blast, it is submitted that the State Pollution Control Board does not have jurisdiction to investigate and inquire into the reasons for the blast and even otherwise does not possess expertise to deeply examine and research the real cause for the blast. I say that the said exercise shall be carried out by the competent authority in accordance with law. Similarly, it is beyond the jurisdictional authority of the State Pollution Control Board to assess and state whether the person owning the shed had wrongly informed the competent authority about the premises being used for warehousing when actually the same was being used for the purpose of manufacturing fire crackers. Again, the said inquiry shall have to be conducted by the competent authority.



One

10. I state that the role of the State Pollution Control Board is restricted to examining the impact of the accident, by whatever cause it may have occurred, on the environment and assess the damage caused by the event on the surrounding environment. In the present case, the State Pollution Control Board has found a slight dip in the quality of ambient air and will take appropriate action for the said occurrence as permissible in law.

11. I say that the Board assures that it shall abide by all or any order that are issued by this Hon'ble Tribunal.

[Signature]

DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at Gandhinagar on this 6th day of August, 2025 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct, nothing stated therein is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

[Signature]

DEPONENT

**SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED
BEFORE ME**

[Signature]

(C. M. RAVAL)

NOTARY

GOVT. OF GUJARAT

6 AUG 2025

Entered in Notary Register at
Serial No. 307 Vol. No. III
[Signature]
C. M. RAVAL ADVOCATE & NOTARY
GANDHINAGAR

6 AUG 2025

