

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
 PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

MANGLAGAURI P. MAKWAN
 NOTARY
 GOVT. OF INDIA

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 728 OF 2023

NEWS ITEM TITLED "ARSENIC FOUND IN GROUNDWATER IN 25
 STATES FLUORIDE IN 27 STATES: GOV" APPEARING IN HINDUSTAN
 DATED 30.11.2023

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF GUJARAT WATER SUPPLY AND
 SEWERAGE BOARD (STATE OF GUJARAT)**

I, Shri Rajendrakumar Pranjivan Lad, adult, having my office at Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Jal Seva Bhavan, Sector-10-A, Gandhinagar, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

1. I am presently serving as Director, Gujarat Jalseva Training Institute, Gandhinagar with the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage 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 Water Supply and Sewerage Board and am otherwise competent to make the present affidavit.
2. The present application has been registered by exercising *suo moto* jurisdiction by this Hon'ble Tribunal basis the news paper report published in Business Standard under the heading "Arsenic found in groundwater in 25 States, fluoride in 27 States: Govt.". As per the said report "Arsenic has been detected in ground water in parts of 230 Districts and 25 States and Fluoride in 469 Districts and 27 States and statement to this effect was made by Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Rajya Sabha."The article expressed concern regarding occurrence of Arsenic and Fluoride present in ground water beyond permissible limits set by the Bureau of Indian Standards for drinking purpose.


 Director
 Gujarat Jalseva Training Institute
 G.W.S.S.B., Gandhinagar





3. I say that the with the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission / Har-Ghar-Jal Yojana, State of Gujarat adopted a strategy to cover all villages by perennial surface water-based water supply schemes. With this strategy, the state government envisioned resolution of two issues, namely, source sustainability i.e., addressing non-availability of water due to declining ground water levels during summer and shifting from ground water use to surface water for drinking purpose to avoid issues such as salinity, presence of Nitrate, Fluoride etc.
4. I say that till date more than 350 Multi-Village Schemes for providing surface level water are operational in State of Gujarat, which cover 15,560 villages, including the areas which have been identified by Central Ground Water Authority to be affected by Arsenic/Fluoride contamination. I say that in the State of Gujarat, surface level water is being supplied from various sources for drinking purpose such as Narmada Canal, Dharoi Dam, Dantiwada Dam, Sipu Dam, Raval Dam, Ozat Dam, Mahi River, Ukai Dam, Machchhu Dam, Brahmani Dam, Panam Dam, Venu Dam and Guhai Dam to all the areas including the areas identified as contaminated by the Central Ground Water Authority.
5. I say that by supplying surface level water from various above mentioned sources the State of Gujarat is ensuring supply of Arsenic and Fluoride free drinking water to its residents. Independently, various Arsenic and Fluoride free wells have been constructed as well as a number of Arsenic / Fluoride removal plants have also been installed by the State to reduce the impact of presence of Arsenic and Fluoride in ground water. The State of Gujarat has also undertaken various awareness programs in order to educate the general public regarding harmful effects of the contaminated ground water and is promoting the use of surface level safe ground water.
6. The answering respondent has submitted a report in this regard to the Central Ground Water Authority as well as before this Hon'ble Tribunal. The authority remains committed to comply or abide by any directions that may be issued by the Hon'ble Tribunal.

DEPONENT
Director

Gujarat Jalseva Training Institute
G.W.S.S.B., Gandhinagar



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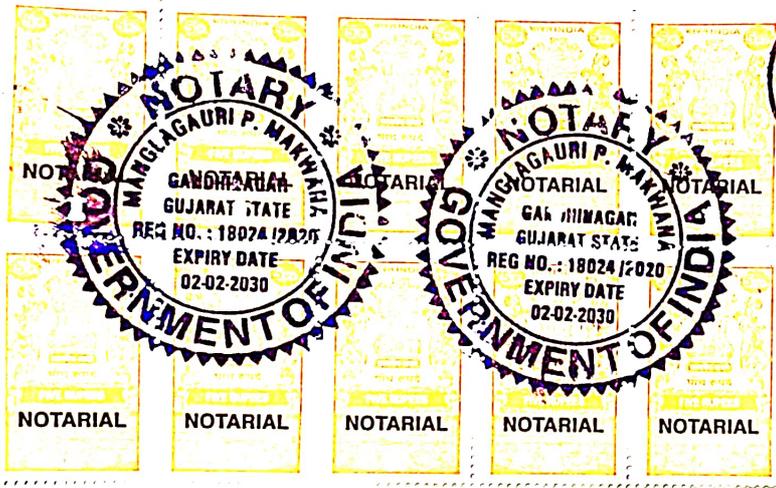
VERIFICATION

Verified at Gandhinagar on this 14th day of July, 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
Director
Gujarat Jalseva Training Institute
G.W.S.S.B., Gandhinagar



SOLEMNL AFFIRMED
BEFORE ME

[Signature]

MANGLAGARI P. MAKWANA
NOTARY
GOVT. OF INDIA

14 JUL 2025