

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
WESTERN BENCH, PUNE**

Serial No.....114/2025

RAJENDRA R. SHAH ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 208 OF 2024 (WZ)
NOTARY

GOVT. OF GUJARAT Earlier Original Application No. 1206 of 2024 PB (LP)

- 2 JUN 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:

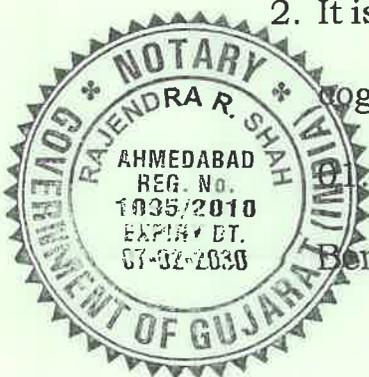
News Item titled "KOTESHWAR FOREST UNDER SIEGE" appearing in the Ahmedabad Mirror dated 20.09.2024.

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 4 - SABARMATI
RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED -
AHMEDABAD**

On behalf of the Respondent No. 4 - Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited ("**SRFDCL**"), it is respectfully submitted as under:

1. The Original Application No. 208 of 2024 (WZ) (hereinafter referred to as "**OA**") has been instituted *suo-motu* by this Hon'ble Tribunal on the basis of the News Article titled "KOTESHWAR FOREST UNDER SIEGE" published in the Ahmedabad Mirror dated 20.09.2024, alleging illegal felling of trees in the region of Koteshwar.

2. It is respectfully submitted that the Principal Bench took *suo-motu* cognizance of the present matter and passed an order dated 01.10.2024 in Original Application No. 1206 of 2024 (Principal Bench). The Hon'ble Principal Bench transferred the said matter



[Handwritten Signature]
0210613025

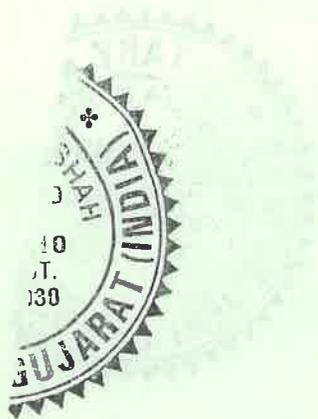
to the Western Bench since the issue was pertaining to jurisdiction of Western Zonal Bench of the Tribunal.

3. It is respectfully submitted that the Respondent No. 4 – SRFDCL was impleaded in the present proceedings only *vide* order dated 11.12.2024 of this Hon'ble Tribunal. It is respectfully submitted that *vide* abovementioned order a notice was issued to the authors of the newspaper article Mr. Jignesh Vora and Mr. Sarfaraz Shaikh to produce the material as may be available with them in support of the newspaper article before the Hon'ble Tribunal.
4. However, no information as directed by this Hon'ble Tribunal was provided by the authors of the newspaper article in order to enable the present Respondent – SRFDCL to adduce response on the issue. It is crucial to underscore that the newspaper article does not provide sufficient details and information on the issue at hand, so as to conduct the matter on merits. For the convenience of the Hon'ble Tribunal the excerpt of the order dated 11.12.2024 is produced herein below:

"6. In view of the observations made by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai V/s. Ankita Sinha and others 2021 SSC Online SC 897 we also consider it appropriate to issue notices to authors of the newspaper article Mr. Jignesh Vora and Mr. Sarfaraz Shaikh for producing the material as may be available with them in support of the newspaper article before this Tribunal. Accordingly, the Registry is directed to issued notices to Mr. Jignesh Vora



0210 612025



and Mr. Sarfaraz Shaikh requiring them to produce the material available with them in support of averments made in the article authored by them.

7. As per the newspaper article substantial number of trees have been illegally cut from the area in question whereas as per the reply filed by PCCF, Gujarat on visit to the impugned area no tree was found cut. We consider it appropriate to constitute a Joint Committee comprising of representatives of Regional Officer, MoEF & CC at Gandhinagar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat, Managing Director, Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. and District Magistrate, Gandhinagar and direct the same to visit the land in question, join the authors of the newspaper article and other persons as considered appropriate, verify the factual position and truthfulness of the averments made in the newspaper article and submit report suggesting remedial measures if any. The District Magistrate, Gandhinagar will be the nodal agency for coordination and compliance. Report of the Joint Committee be filed at least one week before the next date of hearing.

8. List on 14.02.2025 for further consideration.

9. A copy of this order be sent to by email the Officer in-charge of Regional Office, MoEF & CC at Gandhinagar, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Gujarat, the

0210612025

Managing Director, Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. and the District Magistrate, Gandhinagar for requisite compliance.”

5. It is pertinent to mention that the newspaper article does not provide full details of the land under consideration wherein it is alleged regarding felling of trees is underway, which does not provide any clarity whether it pertains to SRFD Project Area. It is further respectfully submitted that incomplete particulars of the newspaper article restraint the Respondent – SRFDCL in making any submission before this Hon'ble Tribunal at this point of time.
6. Therefore, in the interests of justice, it is prerequisite for the authors of the newspaper article to provide definite and sufficient details and particulars, available on the present issue.
7. The Respondent No. 4 craves leave and liberty to file further affidavit(s) on issues and merits of the present matter.

Date: 02. 06. 2025

Place: Ahmedabad


02/06/2025

Deponent



VERIFICATION

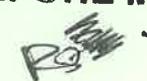
I, AMRUTESH K. DURANGABADKAR, the authorized signatory on behalf of Respondent No. 4 – Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath that what is stated herein above is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief; and I believe the same to be true.

Solemnly affirmed at Ahmedabad on this the 01 day of June, 2025.

 0210612025

Deponent

**SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED
BEFORE ME**


**RAJENDRA R. SHAH
NOTARY
GOVT. OF GUJARAT**

2 JUN 2025

