

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

**ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 47 OF 2023 (WZ)**

**[EARLIER ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 27 OF 2023 (PB)]**

IN THE MATTER OF:

News Item published in the Times of India Dated  
03.01.2023, titled "*Encroachment alleged Inside wild  
ass sanctuary*".

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT NO. 7-  
GUJARAT POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, PURSUANT TO  
THE ORDERS DATED 26.11.2024 and 26.06.2025.**

I, Tejas C Patel, Adult male, Occupation: Service  
(Environment Engineer), having office at Paryavaran Bhavan,  
Sector 10A, Gandhinagar, on behalf of the Respondent no. 7-  
Gujarat Pollution Control Board, do hereby affirm and  
solemnly state on oath as under that:

1. I have been duly authorised to file the present affidavit  
on behalf of the Respondent no. 7- Gujarat Pollution  
Control Board, in the present case, as I am conversant



*(Signature)*

with the facts of the present case and competent to state the same on affidavit.

2. In this regard, it is humbly submitted that in compliance of the order dated 26/11/2024 in Para-4 and 6, directing the Respondent no. 7 herein to provide the relevant provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, concerning the process of survey, settlement and reorganization, and the nature of User Rights of Agariyas, in the Little Rann of Kutch, and to explain the regarding non-production of the cited reports of the years 2004, 2013 and 2020 submitted before the State Government, as mentioned in the Joint Committee Report submitted before this Hon'ble Tribunal, the present affidavit is being filed by the deponent herein.

3. At the outset, it is humbly submitted that the office of the answering-Respondent has been appointed as a Nodal agency for coordination and compliance, in respect of the joint committee constituted vide order dated 22/02/2023 in the subject matter. In respect of the explanation sought by this Hon'ble Tribunal, it is most humbly and respectfully submitted that precise



*(Signature)*

factual explanation can be afforded only by (i) the Collector-Survey and Settlement officer, (ii) the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and (iii) the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Wild Ass Sanctuary, who are the competent authorities functioning under Section 19 and Section 34A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, who are ceased with the entire record of the Survey and Settlement process in the Little Runn of Kutch. It is further submitted that the cited process of Survey and Settlement for recognizing the customary and traditional rights of Agariyas in the Little Runn of Kutch to use the land for cultivation of Salt, was initiated pursuant to the Notification dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 1997 issued by the State Government for establishing the office of Survey and Settlement in the Little Runn of Kutch, and the copies of the cited reports of the Year-2004, 2013 and 2020 submitted with the State Government are not in possession of the answering-deponent. Hence in absence of these Notification and the cited reports, the answering-deponent regrets his inability to assist this Hon'ble Tribunal.



*(Signature)*

4. The answering-respondent undertakes to submit additional and further affidavit, in case the need arises, and it shall be always dutybound to adhere to the directions and suggestions of this Hon'ble Tribunal in the larger interest of public, for the cause raised in the present case.

What is stated hereinabove is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and I believe the same to be true.

Solemnly affirmed at Gandhinagar on 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2025.

*(Signature)*

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMED  
BEFORE ME

Deponent.

(C. M. RAVAL)  
NOTARY

GOVT. OF GUJARAT

21 JUL 2025

Entered in Notary Register at  
Serial No. 206 Vol. No. 111

C. M. RAVAL ADVOCATE & NOTARY  
GANDHINAGAR

21 JUL 2025

