



BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL WESTERN  
 ZONE BENCH, PUNE  
 IA NO. 28 OF 2026  
 APPEAL NO. 59 OF 2026 (WZ)

SAGARDEEP SIRSAIKAR ...Appellants

*Versus*

GCZMA & ORS ...Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT-IN-REPLY ON BEHALF OF GCZMA I.E.,**  
**RESPONDENT NO 1.**

I, Shri. Octavio Antony Rodrigues, major of age, holding the post of Captain of Ports, Government of Goa, i.e., Respondent No 2 herein, having office at Captain of Ports Department, Dayanand Bandodkar Road, Panjim, Goa, do hereby make solemn affirmation and state as under:-



1. I say that I am holding the post of Captain of Ports. I say that I am filing the present affidavit based on the records available with my office and that I am competent to depose in this case.

2. At the very outset, Respondent No 2 (“**Answering Respondent**”) denies all the averments, allegations and contentions raised by the Appellant *in toto*, save and what are matter(s) of record. Nothing stated in the present application shall be deemed to be admitted by the Answering Respondent unless specifically admitted hereinafter. I say that I am filing the present preliminary Affidavit-in-Reply for only for the purpose bringing certain facts on record before this Hon’ble Tribunal. Nothing may be deemed to have been admitted for want of *traverse seriatim*. I crave leave of this Hon’ble Tribunal to file a detailed Affidavit-in-Reply at an appropriate stage.

  
A. Adhwa



3. I say that the memo of IA No. 28 of 2026 and IA No. 27 of 2026 was served upon the Respondent on 13.02.2026. However, the memo of the main Appeal No. 59 of 2026 was served upon the Respondent only on 16.02.2026, i.e., merely one day prior to the scheduled hearing. In view of the belated service of the appeal memo and the absence of reasonable opportunity to examine the pleadings and documents relied upon by the Appellant, the Respondent is presently not in a position to file a detailed and comprehensive reply on merits. The Respondent therefore craves leave of this Hon'ble Tribunal to place a detailed affidavit on record at an appropriate stage.

4. I say that the Appellant, by way of the present proceedings, has challenged the NOC/Clearance dated 17.11.2025 granted by the Goa Coastal Zone Management Authority (GCZMA) for undertaking maintenance dredging at the mouth of River Chapora..

5. I say that the Chapora Port was declared as a Non-Minor Port as early as the year 1967, and fishing vessels have been operating in River Chapora since time immemorial. The navigational channel at the river mouth is an established and historically used passage, which has been periodically dredged and maintained by the Captain of Ports from time to time to ensure safe navigation and adequate draft for fishing vessels. The maintenance dredging in question is not a new activity but forms part of routine upkeep of an existing navigational channel essential for maritime safety and continuity of fishing operations.

6. I say that on 08.02.2025, two fishing trawlers sustained significant damage after striking a sandbar at the mouth of the Chapora River while returning ashore. The incident posed a serious risk not only to property but also to human life. Fishing constitutes a primary source of livelihood for a large number of local Goans, and safe access through the navigational channel is therefore of





critical importance. In view of the safety concerns arising from sedimentation and formation of sandbars at the mouth of the Chapora River, there was an urgent and compelling need to undertake maintenance dredging to restore navigability and prevent further accidents.

7. I say that the maintenance dredging work was undertaken pursuant to the said CRZ clearance and has since been completed. I say that a contractor was appointed through a tender process for execution of the maintenance dredging work at the mouth of River Chapora, measuring approximately 1000 meters in length, 50 meters in width, and 2.50 meters in depth, in accordance with the GCZMA NOC dated 17.11.2025. I say that vide letter dated 12.02.2026, the said contractor informed that the awarded work has been duly completed. I say that this has been completed to ensure a smooth and safe navigational channel. It is submitted that the works executed were limited strictly to maintenance dredging



within the approved parameters and did not involve any expansion or alteration of the existing navigational alignment.

Annexed hereto is a copy of the Letter dated 12.02.2026 marked as "Annexure A".



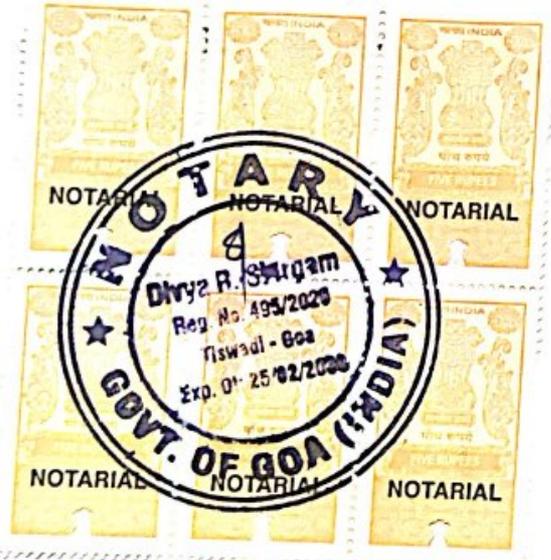
8. I say that the navigational channel where maintenance dredging was undertaken is located at a distance of more than 1000 meters from the turtle nesting sites at Morjim and Mandrem beaches. The Forest Department has earmarked an area extending approximately 600 meters from Morjim Beach as a No-Take-Zone for conservation purposes. The maintenance dredging activities were carried out entirely outside the said No-Take-Zone and in compliance with applicable environmental safeguards. There has been no disturbance to notified nesting habitats, and the work was confined to the designated navigation channel to balance ecological considerations with navigational safety and public interest.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "A. Acharya".

9. I say that what has been stated in Paras 1 to 8 are true to my own knowledge and/or are based on documents/records available with the Respondent and the contents of the same are true and correct and nothing material has been concealed herein.

Solemnly Affirm on Oath  
Place: Panaji, Goa.  
Date: 16.02.2026

*Rodrigues*  
DEPONENT



Solemnly affirmed before me by  
Shri/Smt. *Octavia Antony Rodrigues*  
who has been identified by *Aadhar*  
..Card.No. *851143827376*  
whom I personally know.  
Reg. No. *533*.. Dated *16.02.2026*

*Shirgam*  
DIVYA R. SHIRGAM  
Notary For Tiswadi Taluka  
State of Goa (India)



Date: 12/02/2026

Ref: Enrich/COP/2025-26/15

To,  
The Captain of Ports  
Captain of Ports Department  
Panaji, Goa - 403 001

**Subject:** INTIMATION AND REQUEST FOR FINAL SURVEY - MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT RIVER CHAPORA

**Ref:** Work Order No. CP/HSO/322/4389 for the maintenance dredging across the mouth of River Chapora

Dear Sir,

With reference to work order no. CP/HSO/322/4389 for the *Maintenance Dredging across the mouth of River Chapora (1000.00 meters in length x 50.00 meters in width x 2.50 meters in depth)*. We would like to inform you that we have completed works to ensure smooth navigation channels of all tides and work has been completed strictly accordance with the work order and all applicable guidelines.

In this connection, it is proposed to conduct the **Final survey on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

We look forward to your kind confirmation and cooperation.

Regards,  
Enrich Global Infra Limited



Director/Authorise

**ENRICH GLOBAL INFRA LIMITED**

(Formerly Known as "Enrich RD Infraprojects Private Limited" & "Enrich Global Infra Private Limited")

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Website: www.enrichinfra.com | www.abncogroup.com

13/2/26

HSO  
13/2/26