

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

O.A.NO.23 OF 2025

SUOMOTO CASE TITLED "Haryana 60.48% groundwater over exploited Kurukshetra worst Jhajjar best says "appearing in the Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

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Dated: 03.05.2025

FILED BY: -

Through

(For Respondent No. 4)

GIGI C. GEORGE, STANDING COUNSEL

(UOI)

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

O.A. No. 23 of 2025

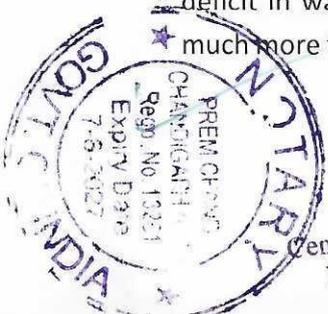
SUOMOTO CASE TITLED "Haryana 60.48% groundwater over exploited Kurukshetra worst Jhajjar best says "appearing in the Tribune dated 08.01.2025.

REPLY AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF CENTRAL GROUND WATER BOARD (R-4)

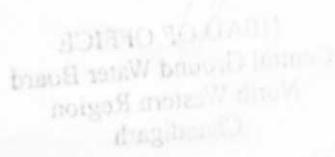
MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWTH:-

1. I, Vidya Nand, aged about ~~52~~ ⁵² years, working as Head of Office, in Ministry of Jal Shakti, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, having office at CGWB,NWR Plot No.3B Sector 27-A Chandigarh , do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under on behalf of the answering respondent:
2. That I am in my aforementioned official capacity, well conversant with the facts and circumstances of the present case on the basis of the documents and records available in the department. As such, I am competent and authorized to swear this counter affidavit on behalf of Respondent No.4, i.e. Central Ground Water Board.
3. That I have read and understood the contents of the present Affidavit and state that the contents mentioned in the Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.
4. That the Hon'ble Tribunal registered OA No. 23/2025 titled "Haryana 60.48% groundwater over exploited Kurukshetra worst Jhajjar best says report" appearing in The Tribune dated 08.01.2025. In this present OA issues related to alarming levels of groundwater exploitation and violation of the provision of the Water (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 in the state of Haryana have been raised.
5. Matter was listed on 23.01.2025 wherein Hon'ble Tribunal impleaded Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as Respondent No.1, Respondent No. 2, Respondent No. 3 respectively and CGWB as Respondent No.4. Hon'ble Tribunal further directed respondents to file response/reply at least one week before the next date of hearing.
6. In pursuance to the directions of Hon'ble Tribunal, it is most respectfully submitted that Haryana State is located in Northwest of India and was carved out in 1966 when the present state of Punjab was reorganized. It is one of the smallest states in India with geographical area of 44,212 Sq. Kms. Administratively it is divided into 6 divisions, 72 sub- divisions, 22 districts, 93 tehsils, 50 sub-tehsils and 142 development blocks. The state is chronically deficit in water resources. The present requirement of water for irrigation in the state is much more than the available surface and sub-surface resources. The surface water available

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for utilization in the state is extremely limited. The main perennial rivers of composite Punjab, viz the Satluj, the Beas and Ravi do not pass through the state of Haryana. The share of Haryana in the water in these rivers is being utilized through Bhakra Canal in the western part of the state. The other source of surface water supply is from river Yamuna which is insufficient and is shared by Haryana with UP. Ground water is the largest available source of fresh water.

7. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with Government of Haryana, assessing Ground water resources of the state periodically according to the Ground Water Estimation methodology under the guidance of the respective State Level Committee on Ground Water Assessment at State Levels and under the overall supervision of the Central Level Expert Group (CLEG) at Central Level.
8. A permanent State Level Committee for Estimation of Ground Water Resources Potential & Refinement, was constituted by Govt. of Haryana on 28.03.2023 vide No. 11A-690001/6/2023-Ground Water Cell. Composition of Permanent State Level Committee is attached and marked as **Annexure-I**. The ground water resources of all the blocks of the state are being assessed jointly by Central Ground Water Board, North Western Region (NWR), Chandigarh and Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Government of Haryana.
9. The ground water resources have been estimated as on 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024. From the year 2022, the assessment is being carried out annually. As per Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment 2024, total Annual Ground Water Recharge of the State has been assessed as 10.32 bcm and Annual Extractable Ground Water Resource is 9.36 bcm. The Total Current Annual Ground Water extraction is 12.72 bcm and Stage of Ground Water extraction is 135.96 %. Out of total 143 assessment units (blocks/Urban), 88 units (61.54 %) have been categorized as 'Overexploited', 11 units (7.69 %) as 'Critical', 08 units (5.59 %) as 'Semi Critical' and 36 units (25.17 %) as 'Safe' categories of assessment units. The details are provided below sorted from the lowest Stage of Groundwater Extraction (SOGWE) to highest percentage of SOGWE. The Ground Water Resource assessment – 2024 of Haryana State (**Annexure-II**) embodies the quantified ground water resources of Haryana state assessed based on the latest methodology recommended by Government of India (GEC- 2015).

As compared to 2023 assessment, the total Annual Ground Water Recharge have increased from 9.55 to 10.31 bcm in 2024, Annual Extractable Resources have also increased from 8.69 to 9.36 bcm and the Annual Ground Water Extraction have increased from 11.80 to 12.72 bcm. The Stage of Ground Water Extraction has increased marginally from 135.74 to 135.96 %.

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10. As per the Ground Water Resources assessment – 2024, it is established that the major use of ground water in the state is in agriculture sector. Use of groundwater in the state of Haryana in various sectors is annexed as **Annexure-III**. Out of 3.5 million Ha of total area under cultivation, 1.121 m Ha area is under tube well irrigation. There are approximately 8.50 lakh irrigation tube wells are present in the state.
11. Suggestions/recommendation being shared by CGWB with respective State and District administration to implement these interventions through convergence of State and Central Schemes.
- (i) To have an effective & efficient utilization of ground water, incentives can be mooted to the farmers to use water sustainably. Awards may be launched and incentives be provided for the farmers, Panchayats and industries who have taken excellent measures for conservation of water measures and consuming less water. To aware and encourage farmers to diversify the paddy and other water guzzling crops by adapting Crop Diversification programmes launched in the State for conservation of natural groundwater resource, alternate crops e.g., maize, sunflower, cotton, vegetables, bajra and summer moong etc. are being promoted in place of water guzzling crops.
- (ii) The construction of Roof-Top Rain-Water Harvesting Structure (RTRWHS) should be made mandatory in all Govt. building including Schools/ Colleges/ Govt. offices for artificially recharging the groundwater aquifers and creating awareness among students and general public.
- (iii) Increase in irrigation efficiency through adopting of micro—irrigation techniques in more areas. To encourage the farmers to adopt micro irrigation systems such as Drip Irrigation System, Sprinkler Irrigation system, Mini sprinkler Irrigation system. To reduce seepage and evaporation losses, encourage the farmers to adopt Underground Pipeline System.
- (iv) National Aquifer Mapping & Management Programme (NAQUIM) Reports prepared by CGWB (<https://cgwb.gov.in/cgwbpm/>) which are also being shared with State/District Authorities and Ground Water Year Book published by CGWB having water level & water quality data may be used in Ground water management (<https://cgwb.gov.in/cgwbpm/>).
- (v) State may review their free/subsidized electricity policy to farmers (if applicable), bring suitable water pricing policy and may work further towards crop rotation/diversification/other initiatives to reduce overdependence on groundwater.
12. Considering the alarming situation of ground water in the State, the Government of Haryana has also taken following steps for groundwater recharging and conservation: -

The Haryana Govt. has enacted "The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020" vide dated 07.12.2020 through Irrigation & Water Resources Department under which State Water Resources Management and Regulation Authority has been



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S. No	Period	Name of Department	No. of Schemes	Amount (In Rupees)	Utilization Certificate received amount	Purpose	No. of UC's received
1	2022-2023	Education Department	167 unit of RW/HS	4,30,02,500/-	3,80,77,500/-	Construction of Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Structure in the Govt. Schools.	150 units
2	2023-2024	Irrigation & Water Resources	20 Schemes	60,12,96,061/-	42,62,22,628/-	For Ground Water recharging & conservation activities	17 UC's have received but balance amount not received
3	2024-2025	Irrigation & Water Resources	09 Schemes	25,89,52,581/-	7,29,01,000/-	For Ground Water recharging & conservation activities	01 UC
		Total		90,32,51,142/-	53,72,01,128/-		

In addition to above, for the fiscal year 2025-26 Rs.94.17 crore have been earmarked for Water Conservation Projects of I&WRD.

13. The CGWB reaffirms its commitment to ensuring sustainable groundwater management. While significant progress has been achieved, the Board acknowledges the need for further efforts to address emerging challenges effectively. CGWB will remain dedicated to working with all stakeholders, including state governments and local communities, to achieve the objectives of sustainable and equitable groundwater use.


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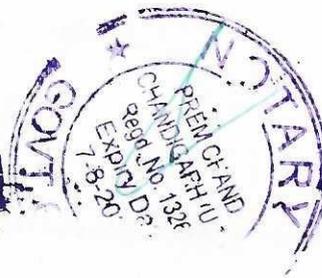
VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent above named, do hereby verify that the contents of the foregoing affidavit are true and correct, no part of it is false and nothing has been concealed there from.
 Verified at Chandigarh on this 3rd day of May, 2025.


DEPONENT
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 Central Ground Water Board
 North Western Region
 Chandigarh

5 MAY 2025 ATTESTED AS IDENTIFIED

NOTARY



Annexure-I

Composition of the Permanent State Level Committee was formed on dated 28.02.2023		
1.	Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, Irrigation & Water Resource Deptt.	Chairman
2.	Vice Chancellor, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar	Member
3.	Director General Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Haryana	Member
4.	Managing Director, Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation	Member
5.	Administrator, Command Area Development Authority, Haryana, Panchkula	Member
6.	Director, Rural Development Department, Haryana	Member
7.	Director, Industries and Mines & Geology Department, Haryana	Member
8.	Managing Director, Haryana State Cooperative Agricultural & Rural Development Bank Ltd.	Member
9.	Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board	Member
10.	General Manager, NABARD, Chandigarh	Member
11.	Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation Department, Haryana	Member
12.	Engineer-in-Chief, LCU, Irrigation Department, Haryana	Member
13.	Engineer-in-Chief, Public Health Engineering Department, Haryana	Member
14.	Director, HARSAC	Member
15.	Director, HIRMI, Kurukshetra	Member
16.	Member secretary, Haryana Ponds and Waste Water Management Authority	Member
17.	Chief Hydrologist, Ground Water cell	Member
18.	Chief Hydrologist, Haryana Water Resource Authority	Member
19.	Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Govt. of India Chandigarh	Member Secretary

Ground Water Resource assessment – 2024 of Haryana

Annexure-II

S.No	STATE	DISTRICT	Annual Ground water Recharge (MCM)	Annual Extractable GWR (MCM)	Ground Water Extraction for all uses (MCM)	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)	Net Annual Ground Water Availability for Future Use (MCM)
1	HARYANA	JHAJJAR	480.60	444.30	249.98	51.01	217.66
2	HARYANA	ROHTAK	355.74	320.16	232.74	51.14	156.43
3	HARYANA	PANCHKULA	145.70	134.33	83.66	62.28	50.67
4	HARYANA	MEWAT	183.83	165.45	162.83	75.98	46.49
5	HARYANA	HISAR	618.57	568.94	517.53	88.63	144.72
6	HARYANA	PALWAL	432.56	392.41	370.74	94.48	72.23
7	HARYANA	SONIPAT	791.46	725.09	820.41	104.61	98.07
8	HARYANA	BHIWANI	442.13	397.92	549.09	104.66	91.03
9	HARYANA	CHARKHI DADRI	248.10	223.29	261.83	108.90	79.58
10	HARYANA	JIND	861.37	782.71	959.82	113.31	65.95
11	HARYANA	AMBALA	437.63	393.86	501.67	127.37	13.15
12	HARYANA	YAMUNA NAGAR	600.33	546.38	713.81	130.64	35.48
13	HARYANA	REWARI	289.66	264.02	351.49	132.71	2.34
14	HARYANA	MAHENDRAGARH	224.01	201.61	293.33	145.50	2.50
15	HARYANA	SIRSA	618.01	565.75	1294.42	152.61	17.74
16	HARYANA	KARNAL	1176.08	1058.47	1840.21	173.85	0.00
17	HARYANA	FATEHABAD	647.84	583.06	1031.97	176.99	5.15
18	HARYANA	FARIDABAD	143.56	130.95	246.81	180.89	2.60
19	HARYANA	KAITHAL	470.02	423.02	804.75	190.24	0.00
20	HARYANA	GURGAON	224.88	203.33	432.63	212.77	0.00
21	HARYANA	PANIPAT	514.06	462.65	1043.62	222.11	0.00
22	HARYANA	KURUKSHETRA	409.90	370.89	847.19	228.42	0.00
TOTAL			10316.04	9358.58	13610.55		1101.79

Annexure-III

S.No.	DISTRICT	Annexure-III									
		Annual Ground water Recharge (MCM)	Annual Extractable GWR (MCM)	Ground water Extraction for Domestic Purposes (MCM)	Ground water Extraction for Industrial Purposes (MCM)	Ground water Extraction for Irrigation Purposes (MCM)	Ground Water Extraction for all uses (MCM)	Stage of Ground Water Extraction (%)	Net Annual Ground Water Availability for Future Use (MCM)		
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1	AMBALA	437.63	393.86	69.15	75.75	356.77	501.67	127.37	13.15		
2	BHIWANI	442.13	397.92	7.68	19.93	521.48	549.09	104.66	91.03		
3	CHARKHI DADRI	248.10	223.29	12.54	0.28	249.02	261.83	108.90	79.58		
4	FARIDABAD	143.56	130.95	44.34	51.04	151.42	246.81	180.89	2.60		
5	FATEHABAD	647.84	583.06	16.51	0.98	1014.48	1031.97	176.99	5.15		
6	GURGAON	224.88	203.33	51.65	171.17	209.81	432.63	212.77	0.00		
7	HISAR	618.57	568.94	3.66	2.30	511.57	517.53	88.63	144.72		
8	JHAJJAR	480.60	444.30	4.08	1.15	244.75	249.98	51.01	217.66		
9	JIND	861.37	782.71	19.55	6.12	934.16	959.82	113.31	65.95		
10	KAITHAL	470.02	423.02	27.02	6.34	771.39	804.75	190.24	0.00		
11	KARNAL	1176.08	1058.47	81.00	36.03	1723.17	1840.21	173.85	0.00		
12	KURUKSHETRA	409.90	370.89	41.25	125.76	680.18	847.19	228.42	0.00		
13	MAHENDRAGARH	224.01	201.61	32.21	0.31	260.81	293.33	145.50	2.50		
14	MEWAT	183.83	165.45	20.63	0.20	142.01	162.83	75.98	46.49		
15	PALWAL	432.56	392.41	22.63	7.33	340.78	370.74	94.48	72.23		
16	PANCHKULA	145.70	134.33	11.43	0.90	71.33	83.66	62.28	50.67		
17	PANIPAT	514.06	462.65	24.43	27.68	991.51	1043.62	222.11	0.00		
18	REWARI	289.66	264.02	19.95	14.52	317.01	351.49	132.71	2.34		
19	ROHTAK	355.74	320.16	5.23	1.66	225.84	232.74	51.14	156.43		
20	SIRSA	618.01	565.75	14.76	2.66	1277.00	1294.42	152.61	17.74		
21	SONIPAT	791.46	725.09	89.51	9.39	721.51	820.41	104.61	98.07		
22	YAMUNA NAGAR	600.33	546.38	50.73	23.40	639.68	713.81	130.64	35.48		
		10316.04	9358.58	669.96	584.91	12355.68	13610.55		1101.79		