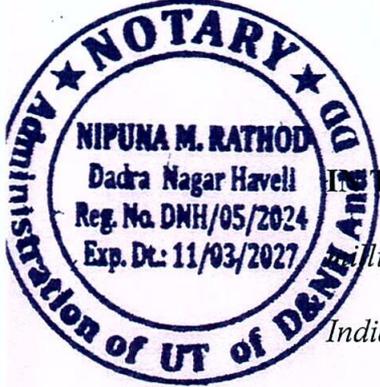


BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 555 OF 2024



THE MATTER OF: Suo motu based on the news article titled "*India lost 2.33 billion hectares of tree cover since 2000 – Global Forest Watch*" published in *The Indian Express* dated 13.04.2024

**AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF
DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN AND DIU**

I, **Anand S. Jadhav**, son/daughter of **Shri Shivaji T. Jadhav**, aged about **52** years, presently serving as the **Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial), Silvassa**, UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That, I am the competent officer authorized to file this affidavit on behalf of the UT Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. I am well conversant with the facts and records of the matter and am competent to swear this affidavit.
2. That this affidavit is being filed in compliance with the Hon'ble Tribunal's direction dated 18.11.2024 in Original Application No. 555/2024, whereby all States/UTs were directed to furnish comments and an action taken report on the issues related to tree cover loss and forest conservation.

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Status of Forest Cover

3. As per the Indian State of Forest Reports (ISFR) published by the Forest Survey of India from 2001 to 2021, the forest cover of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu has remained largely stable, with periodic increases owing to afforestation efforts. There are marginal fluctuations in forest cover, which are primarily due to natural causes such as dry spells, forest fires, and shifting cultivation in adjoining landscapes.

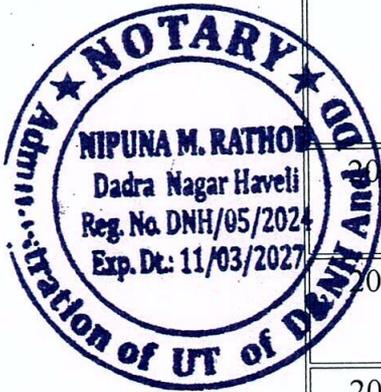


4. The forest cover data is tabulated below:

Year	DNH Forest Cover (sq.km)	% of Geographical Area	% Change	Daman & Diu Forest Cover (sq.km)	% of G.A.	% Change
2001	219.00	44.60	—	6.00	5.53	—
2003	225.00	45.82	+2.74	8.34	7.45	+34.73
2005	221.00	45.01	-1.78	8.54	7.63	+2.40
2009	211.00	42.97	-4.52	5.65	5.04	-33.84
2011	211.00	42.97	0.00	6.15	5.49	+8.85
2013	213.00	43.38	+0.95	9.27	8.28	+50.73

[Handwritten Signature]

Year	DNH Forest Cover (sq.km)	% of Geographical Area	% Change	Daman & Diu Forest Cover (sq.km)	% of G.A.	% Change
2015	206.00	41.96	-3.29	19.61	17.51	+111.54
2017	207.00	42.16	+0.49	20.49	18.46	+4.49
2019	207.16	42.19	+0.08	20.49	18.46	0.00
2021	227.75	37.83	+0.04	—	—	<i>Merger with DNH</i>
2023	211.45	35.12	-1.51	—	—	<i>& DD</i>



Factors Contributing to Tree Cover Change

6. The changes in forest cover over the years can be attributed to the following factors:

- Diversion of forest land (approximately 107 hectares from 2001–2021) for essential **linear infrastructure projects** such as roads, pipelines, public utilities and transmission lines (with compensatory afforestation duly undertaken) after due clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

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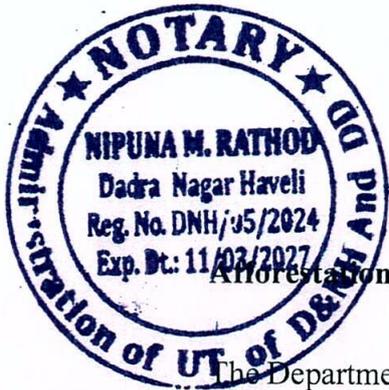


- Individual rights and community rights settled under the **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**, leading to legal conversion of forest use in some areas. **Teram plots** (old cultivation concession), Lopping and thinning operations under silvicultural practices **and shifting cultivation** in bordering areas occasionally impacting forest fringes.
- Natural factors such as seasonal fires, drought, pest attacks, and cyclonic winds.
- The UT of Dadra & Nagar Haveli has not reported any large-scale deforestation or tree cover loss attributable to unregulated or illegal activity.
- Minor and localized variations in green cover may be observed due to:
 - Natural disturbances such as **cyclonic winds, seasonal forest fires, and drought;**
 - **Silvicultural interventions** such as regulated thinning or clear felling under Working Plans;

Action Taken Report for Forest Conservation and Management

7. The UT Administration has adopted a comprehensive and multi-pronged strategy to conserve, regenerate, and monitor forest resources, including:

- a) **Compensatory and Urban Afforestation**



- Compensatory afforestation carried out on double the area of forest land diverted.
- Avenue and block plantations under Green India Mission, MGNREGA, and other schemes.

Afforestation and Green Cover Initiatives

The Department has proactively implemented afforestation programs with notable achievements:

- **Total plantation area (2001–2025):** 6873.6 hectares
- **Total seedlings planted:** Over 97.39 lakh
- **Survival rate:** 75–95%

b) Forest Fire Mitigation

- Fire lines created and maintained annually across vulnerable forest compartments.
- Deployment of watch & ward staff, use of mobile fire alert systems, awareness campaigns to mitigate forest fire incidents and participation of local Van mitra's.

c) Soil & Moisture Conservation

- Construction of water harvesting structures, check dams, contour trenches, and gully plugs under various forestry programs.

d) Community Participation

- Formation and empowerment of **Van Mitras** to promote participatory forest protection and eco-restoration.

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e) **GIS and Remote Sensing-Based Monitoring**

- Adoption of **FSI data, satellite imagery, and drone-based surveillance** to monitor forest status, encroachments, and health of plantations.
- Deployment of **satellite-based monitoring and GIS mapping** for forest cover analysis.

f) **Regulatory Measures**

- No forest land is allowed to be diverted without **prior approval** under FCA, 1980.
- Enforcement of **stringent monitoring protocols** for projects involving forest land diversion.
- Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) and mitigation measures are enforced as per statutory requirements.

8. In addition, the Department has also implemented

- **Bamboo plantations:** 79.40 ha / 794 km with planting of 50.97 lakh clumps.
- **Mangrove plantations:** 101.91 ha, planting 10.19 lakh seedlings.
- **Public distribution of seedlings:** Over 32.01 lakh seedlings distributed to public and institutions.

Conclusion and Commitment

9. The Administration remains committed to protecting, preserving, and enhancing its forest and tree cover through structured monitoring, plantation drives, forest protection schemes, and community participation.

10. The present submission in this affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and based on verified departmental records and is made bona fide in compliance with the Hon'ble Tribunal's directions.



Deponent

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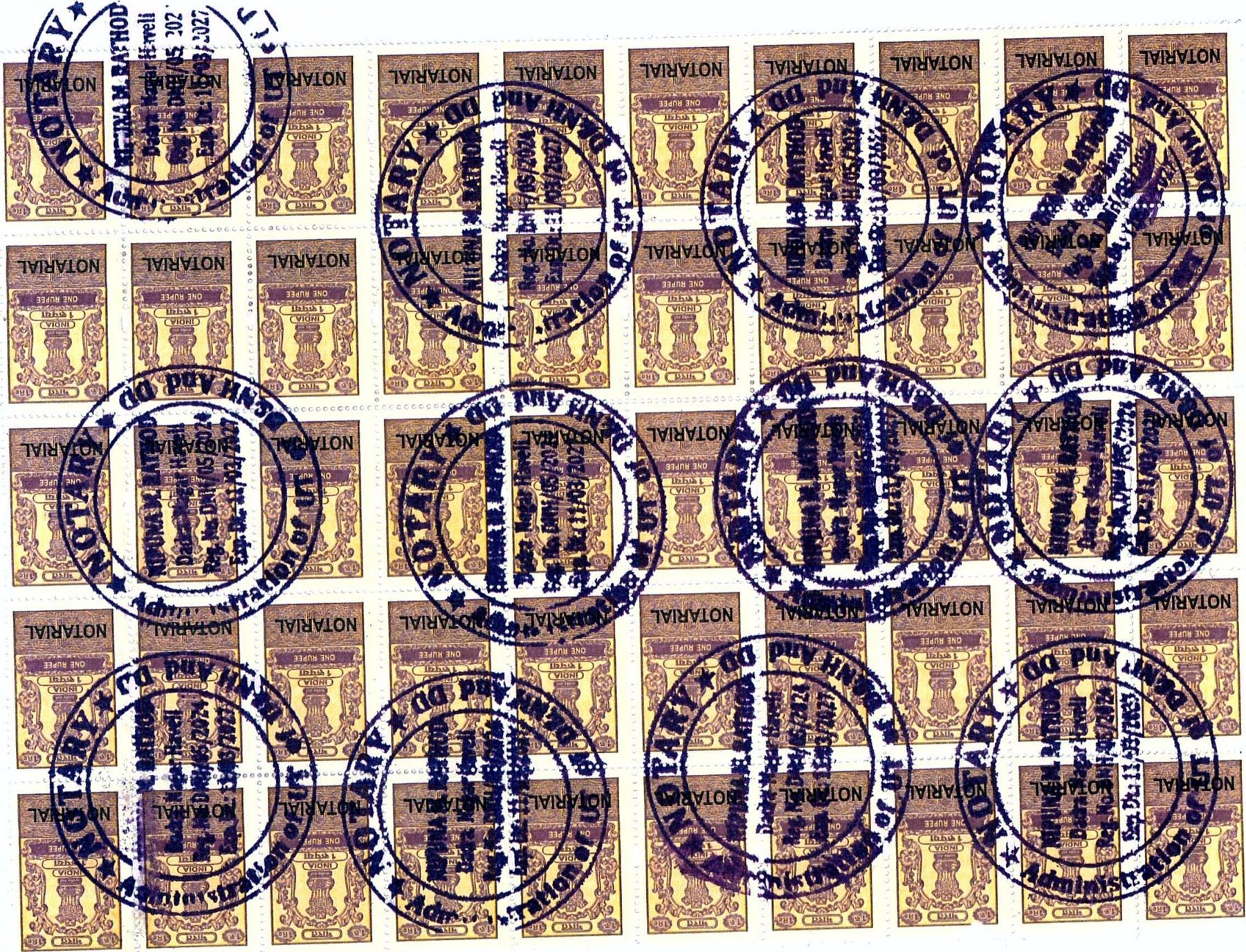
Anand S. Jadhav,

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial)

Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu

Place: Silvassa

Date:



VERIFICATION

I, the deponent above-named, do hereby verify that the contents of the present affidavit are true and correct to my knowledge and belief and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.

Verified at Silvassa on this 25th day of July, 2025

DEPONENT

Anand S. Jadhav

Anand S. Jadhav,

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial)

Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu

Abhe N. Jadhav

Solemnly Affirmed before me by
Anand S. Jadhav
of Silvassa who is identified
by Abhe N. Jadhav
Khamvel whom I known Person.

M Rathod

NIPUNA MAHENDRASINH RATHOD
B.A.L.L.B.

ADVOCATE & NOTARY

Office at- Ground Floor, Hotel Vishwana,
Beside ICICIBank, Naroli Road,
Silvassa-396 230.
(UT of DNH and DD)

Serial No. 661

Date 25-07-2025

