

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

O.A. NO. 727/2024

IN THE MATTER OF:

In Re: News Item Titled "Endangered Gangetic Dolphin found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation".

Versus

Wildlife Institute of India & Ors.

...Respondents

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THROUGH COUNSEL



ADARSH CHAMOLI
Counsel For Respondent No. 3
5, Lawyers' Chamber Block – I,
Delhi High Court, New Delhi

PLACE: NEW DELHI
DATE: 15.05.2026

Mob: 8375955697

Email Id: adarshchamoli93@gmail.com

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RESPONSE AFFIDAVIT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT NO. 9



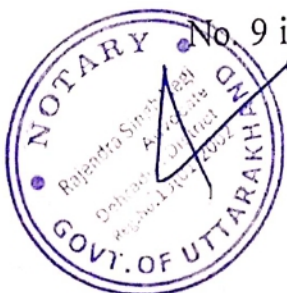
I, Dr. Koko Rose, aged about 43 years, S/o Sh. Rupfuhu Rose, am presently posted as Director, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, Dehradun.


DEPONENT

I, the above-named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

1. That the deponent is presently posted as Director, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand, Dehradun and has been duly authorized by Respondent

No. 9 i.e. PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttarakhand vide





letter dated 04.12.2025 bearing number 1903/29-1 to file response affidavit on his behalf and in this capacity, I am fully aware of the facts and circumstances of the present case based on the official records and as such, I am competent to depose the present affidavit. Copy of the authorization letter dated 04.12.2025 bearing number 1903/29-1 is annexed as **Annexure A1**.

2. That the above captioned Original Application No. 727/2024 titled "News Item Titled 'Endangered Gangetic Dolphin found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation' appearing in Mongabay-India dated 20-05-2024" was listed before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, New Delhi, wherein the Hon'ble Tribunal passed directions vide its order dated 26.11.2025 directing all the respondents to file replies.
3. That further directions were passed on the next date of hearing i.e. 18.02.2026 directing Respondent No. 7 and Respondent No. 9 to appear virtually and clarify their stand, and the matter was adjourned for 29.05.2026.
4. That in compliance of the above orders, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Uttarakhand vide letter



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a cursive name, written over a circular notary seal.

dated 04.12.2025 bearing number 1903/29-1 (already annexed as Annexure – A1) directed the deponent to take necessary action.

5. That in compliance, the deponent sent a letter dated 13.03.2026 bearing number 3541/29-1 to the Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, stating that as per the records available with the state, there are no Gangetic Dolphins present within the territory of Uttarakhand. Vide the said letter, the deponent sought for any records which are available with Respondent No. 1 i.e. Wildlife Institute of India regarding Gangetic Dolphin's presence in Uttarakhand. Copy of the letter dated 13.03.2026 bearing number 3541/29-1 sent by the Director, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand to the Director, Wildlife Institute of India is annexed as **Annexure A2.**

6. That in reply to the said letter dated 13.03.2026, the Director, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, vide its letter dated 23.03.2026 bearing number WII/RB-NMCG/2019 has provided the following information:

“However, we have not recorded the Gangetic Dolphin in river Ganga flowing through Uttarakhand State.”

Copy the letter dated 23.03.2026 bearing number WII/RB-NMCG/2019 sent by Director, Wildlife Institute of India to the Director, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand is annexed as **Annexure A3.**



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a cursive name, written over a circular notary seal.

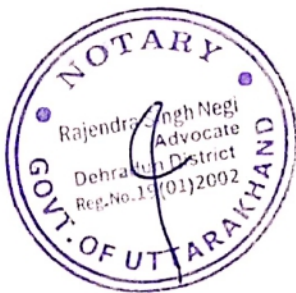
7. That the deponent is a responsible Government servant having highest regard for the Hon'ble Tribunal and has made sincere efforts to comply with its orders and shall continue to do so.


DEPONENT

VERIFICATION

Verified at Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 15 day of May 2026 that the contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, no part of it is false and nothing material has been concealed therefrom.


DEPONENT



S.No. 1940/26

This affidavit is sworn before me by
Shri Dr. Ganga Dey
who is identified by Shri.....
at Dehradun on.....

(Rajendra Singh Negi)
Advocate & Notary



कायालय प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव) / मुख्य वन्यजीव प्रतिपालक, उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून
85 राजपुर रोड, देहरादून, फोननं० 0135-2742804 फैक्सनं० 0135-2745691 ईमेल-cwlwua@yahoo.co.in

पत्रांक 1903 / 29-1 देहरादून दिनांक 04 दिसम्बर 2025

सेवा में,

निदेशक,
राजाजी टाइगर रिजर्व,
उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

विषय:- Original Application No. 727/2024 (IA NO 755/2025) News Item titled "Endangered Gangetic dolphins found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation" appearing in Mongaby- India dated 20.05.2024.

संदर्भ:- मा0 एन0जी0टी0 का नोटिस दिनांक 01.12.2025।

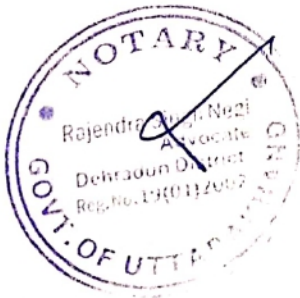
महोदया,

अवगत कराना है कि मा0 एन0जी0टी0 में योजित वाद "Original Application No. 727/2024 (IA NO 755/2025) News Item titled "Endangered Gangetic dolphins found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation" appearing in Mongaby- India dated 20.05.2024" में अधोहस्ताक्षरी को प्रतिवादी सं० 9 बनाया गया है। मा0 एन0जी0टी0 द्वारा विषयगत वाद में अधोहस्ताक्षरी की ओर से प्रतिउत्तर योजित किए जाने हेतु आपको अधिकृत किया जाता है। वाद अगली सुनवाई हेतु दिनांक 18.02.2026 को सूचीबद्ध है। अतः वाद से संबंधित आवश्यक कार्यवाही करते हुए कृत कार्यवाही से इस कार्यालय को अवगत कराना सुनिश्चित करें। प्रकरण की महत्ता के दृष्टिगत आपका व्यक्तिगत ध्यानाकर्षण आवश्यक है।

संलग्नक: यथोपरि।

भवदीय,

(आर०के० मिश्र)
प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (वन्यजीव) एवं
मुख्य वन्यजीव प्रतिपालक,
उत्तराखण्ड।



(Handwritten signature)



फोन : 0135 2621869 फैक्स : 0135 2620433
E-mail : director.rajaji@gmail.com

कार्यालय निदेशक / वन संरक्षक
राजाजी टाइगर रिजर्व, देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड
5/1 अंसारी मार्ग, देहरादून-248001

पत्रांक 3541 / 29-1 देहरादून, दिनांक, 13-03-2026

सेवा में,

निदेशक,
भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान,
देहरादून।

विषय :- Original Application No. 727/2024 (1.A. No. 755/2025) News item titled " Endanged Gangetic Dolphins found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation appearing in Mongaby – India dated 20-05-2025.

महोदय,

माननीय NGT, नई दिल्ली में योजित उपरोक्त विषयक वाद (Original Application No. 727/2024 (1.A. No. 755/2025) में माननीय NGT, द्वारा प्रमुख वन संरक्षक (HoFF), उत्तराखण्ड को प्रकरण सम्बन्धी रिपोर्ट प्रतिशपथ पत्र के रूप में योजित करने के निर्देश प्रदान किये गये हैं तथा अधोहस्ताक्षरी को प्रकरण में आवश्यक कार्यवाही करने हेतु निर्देशित किया गया है।

महोदय उपलब्ध अभिलेखों के अनुसार उत्तराखण्ड की प्रमुख नदियों एवं सहायक नदियों में Gangetic Dolphin की उपस्थिति नहीं पायी जाती है तथापि यदि भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान द्वारा उत्तराखण्ड राज्य में कोई अध्ययन कार्य/सर्वेक्षण कार्य संचालित किया गया है जिसमें उत्तराखण्ड राज्य में Gangetic Dolphin की उपस्थिति दर्ज हुयी हो, तो कृपया सम्बन्धित रिपोर्ट एवं अभिलेख इस कार्यालय को उपलब्ध कराने की कृपा करें, ताकि विभाग द्वारा प्रतिउत्तर योजित किये जाने के सम्बन्ध में अग्रेत्तर कार्यवाही की जा सके।

भवदीय,

(डा० कोको रोस)

निदेशक / वन संरक्षक
राजाजी टाइगर रिजर्व, देहरादून।



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No. WII/RB-NMCGI/2019

To

The Director/Conservator of Forest,
Rajaji Tiger Reserve,
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

दिनांक 23-03-2026

पत्रांक 5-6

विषय: 23-03-2026

Date: As per e-sign

Handwritten signature and stamp of the Director/Conservator of Forest, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

Handwritten note: "Court Case"

Sub: Original Application No. 727/2024 (I.A. No. 755/2025) regarding the news item titled "Endangered Gangetic Dolphins found in most tributaries of Ganges prompting urgent conservation" published in Mongabay-India dated 20.05.2024 – reg.

Ref: Letter no. 3541/21-5-Dehradun dated 13 March 2026.

Dear Sir,

This is in connection with the Original Application No. 727/2024 (I.A. No. 755/2025) before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi, concerning the reported presence of Gangetic Dolphins in tributaries of the Ganga.

With regard to the information sought, the Wildlife Institute of India has been conducting river surveys in the Ganga River and its tributaries, since 2018, in the Ganga Basin, including Uttarakhand. However, we have not recorded the Gangetic dolphin in River Ganga flowing through Uttarakhand state.

This is submitted for your kind consideration and further necessary action.

With regards,

Digitally signed by
Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj
Date: 23-03-2026
15:03:28

(Dr. G.S. Bharadwaj, IFS)
Director