

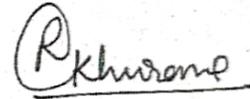
IN THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

Original Application No. 420/2025

News Item titled "Gurgaon a groundwater 'dark zone', but extraction over 2 times the limit" appearing in Times of India dated 05.08.2025.

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Rahul Khurana, Advocate
Counsel for
Respondent No.3

Date: 09.02.2026

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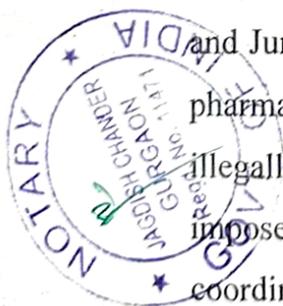
**Reply by way of affidavit of Akansha Tanwar, Regional
Officer on behalf of Haryana State Pollution Control
Board i.e. Respondent No. 3 in compliance of order dated
20.08.2025**

I, Akansha Tanwar, Regional Officer, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Gurgaon North, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as under:

1. That Hon'ble NGT vide its Order dated 20.08.2025 impleaded the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred as HSPCB) as Respondent No. 3 in the instant matter.
2. That the Original Application has been registered suo-motu on the basis of the news item titled "Gurgaon a groundwater 'dark zone', but extraction over 2 times the limit" appearing in Times of India dated 05.08.2025

xxx...xxx...xxx...xxx...xxx

The matter relates to the depleting groundwater levels in Gurgaon, which was classified as a "dark zone" by the Central Ground Water Authority in 2008. The article states that illegal extraction is continuing unabated. As per an RTI reply by Haryana's Irrigation and Water Resources Department, between November 2022 and June 2025, 60 entities— including builders, industries, educational institutions, pharmacy firms, residential societies, and public institutions were found to be illegally extracting groundwater. While some borewells have been sealed and fines imposed, the article mentions that enforcement remains weak and lacks coordination among agencies. According to the National Compilation on Dynamic Groundwater Resources of India, the city in 2024 drew approximately 212% of its permissible groundwater limit, more than double the amount that can be used. The report ranked Gurgaon third among all Haryana districts for over-extraction. The article states that the city drew nearly 43,262 ham of groundwater compared to a sustainable limit of 20,333 ham. It further mentions that Gurgaon extracts three times more groundwater than what is recharged every year. As per the article, this situation is driven by unchecked construction and a growing population, which



continue to increase demand on already stressed water resources

XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX...XXX

Hon'ble National Green Tribunal vide order dated 20.08.2025 has directed as follows:-

".....Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply by way of affidavit at least one week before the next date of hearing. If any respondent directly files the reply without routing it through his advocate then the said respondent will remain virtually present to assist the Tribunal.."

3. That Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020 establishes the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA) (separate from respondent No. 3) with a statutory mandate to conserve, regulate and manage groundwater and surface water in the state. It prescribes that groundwater extraction for commercial, industrial or project use requires permission/No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from HWRA under the Act's procedures. Respondent No. 3 role intersects with HWRA when groundwater extraction and discharge activities have environmental implications, such as contamination risks, pollution prevention or compliance reporting.
4. That HSPCB does not have primary statutory authority to grant or regulate groundwater extraction permits/NOCs under the Haryana Water Resources Authority framework; that function is vested in HWRA by the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020. The statutory authority for granting groundwater extraction permits/NOCs, setting extraction limits, categorising groundwater zones and imposing extraction fees primarily rests with the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA) under The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020.
5. That Haryana Government, Irrigation & Water Resources Department vide order dated 06.12.2021 has designated officers from Irrigation & Water Resources, Town & Country Planning & Respondent No. 3 as Enquiry officer/Enforcement Officer/Compliance Officer. The function of officers is as per the provisions of section 19 & 20 of the Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation & Management) Authority Act, 2020 or as directed by the authority, including discovery and production of documents, summoning and enforcing the attendance



of any person, to conduct field inspection, enter into any premises for inspection and inquiry, submit report/interim report to the authority. Accordingly, Inspection are conducted by the Respondent No. 3, Town & Country Planning and Irrigation & Water Resources Department and sent to Respondent No. 1 for penal action which includes sealing of illegal Borewell and Environmental Compensation as calculated & imposed by Respondent No. 1. Copy of order dated 06.12.2021 is annexed as **Annexure R/3-1**.

6. That Board's role in groundwater extraction is enforcing pollution compliance, while resource regulation and extraction permissions are governed by separate statutory mechanisms.

In light of the above submission, it is respectfully submitted that this answering Respondent i.e. HSPCB, shall abide by any order (s) or direction (s) passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal in the instant OA.

Alankar

Deponent

Verification:

Verified at Gurugram on 09 day of February, 2026 that contents of the Para No. 1 to 6 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge as per information derived from the official record. Nothing material has been concealed therein.



Alankar

Deponent

Alankar
ATTESTED
 JAGDISH CHANDER
 Advocate & Notary Public
 Distt. Courts, Gurugram

HARYANA GOVERNMENT
IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ORDER

In exercise with the power conferred under Section 19 and 20 of "The Haryana Water Resources (Conservation, Regulation and Management) Authority Act, 2020. The Governor of Haryana is pleased to designate the officer of the department i.e. Irrigation & Water Resources (Executive Engineer), Town and Country Planning (Not below the rank of District Town Planner), Haryana State Pollution Control Board (Not below the rank of Regional Officer) as Enquiry officer/Enforcement officer/Compliance Officer in addition to their present duties, in "The Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA)", Panchkula. The functions of the officers shall be as per the provisions of the Section 19 and 20 or as may be directed by the Authority, including discovery & production of documents, summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person, to conduct field inspection, enter into any premises for inspection and inquiry, submit report/interim report to the Authority..

Sr. No.	District/Block	Irrigation and Water Resources Deptt.	Town and Country Planning Deptt.	Haryana State Pollution Control Board	Jurisdiction
1.	Ambala	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Ambala	Concerned District Town Planner	Concerned Regional Officer	Ambala
2.	Kurukshetra	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Kurukshetra	-Do-	-Do-	Kurukshetra
3.	Panchkula	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div., Panchkula	-Do-	-Do-	Panchkula
4.	Kaithal	Executive Engineer, Pundri W.S. Div. Kaithal	-Do-	-Do-	Kaithal
5.	Narwana	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div., Narwana	-Do-	-Do-	Narwana
6.	Hisar	Executive Engineer, Adampur W.S. Div., Hisar	-Do-	-Do-	Hisar
7.	Fatehabad	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Fatehabad	-Do-	-Do-	Fatehabad
8.	Sirsa	Executive Engineer, Nehrana W.S. Div. Sirsa	-Do-	-Do-	Sirsa
9.	Jagadhri	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Jagadhari	-Do-	-Do-	Yamunanagar
10.	Karnal	Executive Engineer, Karnal W.S. Div. Karnal	-Do-	-Do-	Karnal
11.	Panipat	Executive Engineer, Panipat W.S. Div. Panipat	-Do-	-Do-	Panipat
12.	Jind	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Jind	-Do-	-Do-	Jind
13.	Bhiwani	Executive Engineer, Bhiwani W.S. Div. Bhiwani	-Do-	-Do-	Bhiwani
14.	Ch. Dadri	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. LWS (Mech) Divn. Ch. Dadri	-Do-	-Do-	Ch. Dadri
15.	Rohtak	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. W.S. Feeder Divn. Rohtak	-Do-	-Do-	Rohtak
16.	Sonapat	Executive Engineer, Rai W.S. Div. Sonapat	-Do-	-Do-	Sonapat
17.	Gurugram	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. G.W.S. Divn. Gurugram	-Do-	-Do-	Gurugram
18.	Jhajjar	Executive Engineer, Jhajjar W.S. Div. Jhajjar	-Do-	-Do-	Jhajjar
19.	Faridabad	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. Faridabad	-Do-	-Do-	Faridabad

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6/12/24

20.	Nuh	Executive Engineer, Mewat W.S. Divn. Nuh	-Do-	-Do-	Nuh
21.	Rewari	Executive Engineer, W.S. (Elect) Divn. Rewari	-Do-	-Do-	Rewari
22.	Mahendergarh	Executive Engineer, W.S. Div. M/garh canal W.S. (Mech) Divn. Namaul	-Do-	-Do-	Mahendergarh
23.	Gohana	Executive Engineer, Gohana W.S. Divn, Gohana	-Do-	-Do-	Gohana
24.	Bahadurgarh	Executive Engineer, W.S. Divn, Bahadurgarh	-Do-	-Do-	Bahadurgarh

Devender Singh
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana
Irrigation & W.R. Department

Dated Chandigarh, the 30 November, 2021

Endstt. No. 1IW-030001/19/2021

Dated: - 06.12.2021

A copy, each is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action.

1. The Chairperson, Haryana Water Resources Authority, Sinchai Bhawan, Sector-5, Panchkula.
2. Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana, Town & Country Planning Department with request to issue necessary direction to the concerned officer.
3. The Chairman, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Sector-6, Panchkula with request to issue necessary direction to the concerned officer.
4. Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation and Water Resources Department, Sinchai Bhawan, Sector-5, Panchkula.
5. PS/ACSI&WRD
6. PS/SIWRD

Handwritten signature and date: 6/12/2021
Superintendent, Irrigation (Works),
for Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Haryana
Irrigation and Water Resources Department